

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--Jerusalem radio reported that a Syrian SAM missile accidentally downed a Syrian MiG on 14 May, but a Syrian military spokesman, cited by Damascus radio on 16 May, denied the Israeli claim. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian MiG's strafed Phalangist positions in the Sannin area on 16 May, although monitored Syrian media have not confirmed this. Heavy shelling broke out in Beirut over the weekend, according to radio reports. Voice of Lebanon said Syrian and Palestinian artillery shelled eastern Beirut continuously early on 17 May while Clandestine Voice of Palestine accused the Phalangists of shelling populated areas in western Beirut on the same day. Although Beirut radio reported a lull in the fighting later in the day, it said the clashes continued and intensified on 18 May. Further Beirut radio reports said today's clashes along the contact lines have abated but revealed that 25 people were killed and 118 wounded in the recent bout of fighting.

According to Voice of Lebanon, fighting continued around Zahlah over the weekend, with Syrian shelling of the city and attacks on Phalangist positions. Voice of Palestine reported on 18 May that clashes are continuing on the 'Uyun as-Siman front between Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) and the Phalangists. The radio also reported renewed Israeli-Christian militia shelling of Palestinian positions in the southern regions of Arnun, Al-Qal'ah and An-Nasatiyah on 17 May and said IDF units have been concentrating in the eastern sector of the border strip and along the northern borders of Israel. Jerusalem radio, citing the UN spokesman in southern Lebanon, reported that Israeli gunboats exchanged fire with Palestinian forces in the Ar-Rashidiyah area late last night.

Comments on Naval Movements--a 16 May Damascus radio report on the movements of U.S. aircraft carriers Independence and Forrestal into the eastern Mediterranean described their presence in the region as "provocations." Jerusalem radio reported on 17 May that the U.S. force was close to the Lebanese coast while the Soviet task force in the eastern Mediterranean was moving west between Cyprus and Crete.

Habib Mission--SPA reported that U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib arrived in Riyadh on 16 May for talks on the Lebanese situation. A Jerusalem TV correspondent said that Habib's visit to Saudi Arabia should be viewed as a U.S. approach to a pro-Western ally and noted that Saudi Arabia's influence on Syria is very great. IDF radio reported yesterday that the Israeli Cabinet decided unanimously to allow Habib to continue his mediation efforts without any time limits.

Saudi Statement, Message--A 17 May Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry statement, carried textually by SPA, denounced Israel's "escalation" of the situation in Lebanon and reaffirmed the kingdom's support for the legitimate authorities and the ADF forces there. Noting that Syria's role in the ADF is supported by the legitimate authorities in Lebanon, the statement affirmed Saudi Arabia's determination to support "sister Syria" in the face of any aggression against both it and Lebanon. On the same day, Damascus radio reported that President Hafiz al-Asad received in Damascus Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, assistant national guard commander, who conveyed a message to him on the current situation from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Al-Asad Remarks--Addressing members of the Permanent Secretariat of the African and Asian Writers Union in Damascus, President al-Asad said Syria will resist any attempt by Israel to intervene in Lebanon's affairs and will resist any Israeli aggression. In his remarks, reported by Damascus television, Al-Asad also said Syria's enemies have now resorted to external aggression after the failure of their internal conspiracy involving the Muslim Brotherhood.

Syrian Comment--On 16 May Damascus television cited an official source as saying that the Syrian Government had denied allegations of an implicit agreement with Israel defining red lines in Lebanon that the ADF cannot cross and the kind of weapons to be used in Lebanese territory. According to Damascus radio yesterday, the daily TISHRIN charged that there are no red lines, only imaginary lines that Israel wants. In a commentary on 16 May, the radio said Syria vehemently rejects any Israeli security rights within a Lebanese territorial policy and refuses to discuss the means which its forces in Lebanon are entitled to have and to use. According to the radio's press review the same day, TISHRIN said that the Syrian missiles are an organic part of the military and defensive requirements of any Syrian military unit or presence in Lebanon and that Syria will not lack any of the requisites for a successful confrontation with Israel. A 17 May Damascus radio commentary claimed that an "Arab nationalist resurgence" is rallying around Syria. Denouncing as "slander" a recent statement on Lebanon by former Under Secretary of State Joseph Sisco, the radio warned that Syria is not alone and cannot be attacked in isolation.

Soldatov Comments--After a 16 May meeting in Beirut with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov told journalists that recent developments in Lebanon are "unrelated" to the Soviet-Syrian treaty of friendship and cooperation. In his remarks, reported by Beirut radio, Soldatov also said the Soviet Union supports Syrian steps aimed at stopping the fighting in Lebanon and improving the situation. He said the Soviet fleet is performing its "normal mission" in the eastern Mediterranean.

Junblatt, Baqraduni Interviews--AFP reported that in an interview published today by the Lebanese weekly MONDAY MORNING, Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said no ADF withdrawal from Lebanon should be contemplated until a security pact has been worked out between Syria and the Lebanese Army. Interviewed in the same edition of the magazine, Phalangist Political Bureau member Karim Baqraduni called for the progressive withdrawal of the ADF and its replacement by regular Lebanese troops.

Israeli Foreign Minister Interview--Questioned on his hopes for a political solution to the Lebanese crisis, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in an interview carried by Jerusalem television that there does not have to be war and that there are military operations short of war which can be used when there is no alternative.

Iranian Envoy, Statements--Damascus radio reported that an Iranian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Damascus on 17 May. The radio said Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced that he had brought a message for President al-Asad from Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and declared Iran's solidarity with the Syrian stand on Lebanon. Later, the Iranian envoy met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the radio reported. Meanwhile, according to a 15 May Tehran radio report, 'Ali Khamene'i, Tehran's Friday imam, predicted that if Israel were to attack Syria, Iraq would not come to Syria's assistance but Iranians would fight alongside their Muslim brothers.

'Arafat Activities--Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Beirut via Damascus on 16 May after a visit to Algeria and Libya. On 17 May he chaired a joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian command to report on his trip, the radio reported. According to the same source, 'Arafat also met yesterday with Soviet Ambassador Soldatov, who delivered an important message from the Soviet leaders. Voice of Palestine radio reported that later on 17 May 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the Fatah Central Committee, which issued a political statement stressing the importance of an immediate Arab foreign ministers conference to review the Lebanese situation and calling for the mobilization of all Arab resources on the Syrian-Lebanese front.

As-Sadat, Ghali Comments--MENA quoted Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat as saying that regardless of what happens between Syria and Israel, Camp David is an established fact. According to Cairo radio, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that if the Lebanese Army cannot defend Lebanon, then an international emergency force must be formed for a transitional period until the army can assume responsibility for preserving Lebanon's independence.

Egyptian Radio Comment--A Cairo radio commentary said that Moscow is behind the deployment of missiles in the Al-Biqa' valley because Moscow knew that Israel would not keep silent about this development and could be pushed into confronting Syria. The radio explained that Israel would sustain losses in any strike at the missiles and that Syria would look like a martyr to the Arab world and would rally its support. Moscow and Damascus would then attribute Syria's predicament to Camp David, it added.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

On 15 May Tehran radio reported continuing military activity on the western and southern fronts and said that Abadan and Ahvaz had come under an Iraqi missile and artillery attack. The KHALEEL TIMES of Dubayy carried a REUTER report the same day citing the acting governor of Abadan, who said that the Abadan oil refinery has been destroyed in the fighting and must be abandoned. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, broadcast by Baghdad radio on 15 May, detailed Iranian losses on various fronts and reported that 21 Iraqis had lost their lives in the fighting.

According to Tehran radio on 16 May, Iranian forces smashed the enemy defense line near Abadan by capturing two strategic hills overlooking the Abadan region. The radio reported 1 enemy infantry battalion was routed, 85 enemy soldiers were captured and 8 tanks were destroyed. It said that attempts are continuing to liberate the remaining sectors of the city. Tehran radio also reported continuing military activity on the southern and western fronts, claimed 100 enemy losses in a clash on the Cusangerd axis and said that Ahvaz had again come under artillery fire. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio on 16 May, claimed seven Iranians were killed in the Abadan region and admitted Iraqi forces lost six men.

On 17 May Tehran radio reported Iraqi attempts to regain positions in Abadan and said firing on residential areas was continuing. It also reported military activity on the Marivan and Ilam fronts. According to an Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, Iranian losses totaled 307 on the Abadan front. The communique said Iraqi forces pounded Iranian positions around Abadan.

Pakistan

According to Karachi radio, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman on 14 May rejected a recent Afghan allegation that Pakistan has deviated from its policy of finding a solution to the Afghan situation through political negotiations. The spokesman called these "baseless allegations" a restatement of views expressed in PRAVDA and on Moscow radio a day earlier.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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YASIR 'ARAFAT ANNOUNCES PALESTINIAN MOBILIZATION

NC160742 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is scheduled to leave the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah today after holding talks with Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi on the current situation in the area, particularly the Zionist military escalation against the Palestinian revolution, Lebanon and Syria. Brother Abu 'Ammar announced in Tripoli yesterday the general mobilization of the Palestinian revolution to confront the Zionist aggressions in southern Lebanon. He said that the Israeli concentrations are increasing in southern Lebanon awaiting the green light from the United States to strike at the Palestinian revolution, Syria and the National Movement.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS PLO EXECUTIVE, COMMAND MEETING

NC170627 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] last night chaired a joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian command following his return from visits to Algeria and Libya. During the meeting the brother commander explained the results of his meetings with Presidents Chedli Bendjedid and Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, who both stressed that their countries will stand by Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement in the battle of confrontation and the pan-Arab fate against Israel.

Brother Abu 'Ammar submitted a comprehensive analysis of the current situation in the area in light of the continued Israeli threats to launch a war and the U.S. campaign of pressure and provocations through Philip Habib's tour. Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed the urgent need for a responsible Arab meeting under these circumstances so that the confrontation with Israel and the United States will assume an overall pan-Arab dimension.

During the meeting a number of brothers of the Palestinian command submitted analyses on the various aspects of the situation at the military, security and political levels.

Our correspondent has learned that the Palestinian command has decided to continue its efforts to convene a meeting of Arab foreign ministers as quickly as possible. The command has also adopted military and security measures to confront the possibility of a major military operation that could be a prelude to an all-out war against Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

During the meeting it was decided to invite the higher security committee to meet today to discuss the necessary measures and arrangements to safeguard citizens.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES 'IMPORTANT' MESSAGE FROM SOVIETS

NC171316 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this morning received Soviet ambassador in Lebanon Aleksandr Goldatov. Our correspondent has learned that the Soviet ambassador delivered to Brother Abu 'Ammar an important message from the Soviet leaders. They discussed the latest developments in the explosive situation in the region in the wake of the Zionist military escalation against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and fraternal Syria.

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON LEBANON

JN172027 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1845 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] The Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement--Fatah--held a meeting today which ended at 1730. The committee reviewed the various developments in the region in the wake of the Israeli military escalation in southern Lebanon against Lebanese towns and villages and Palestinian camps. The committee reviewed the situation in the region and the visits [not further identified] paid to a number of Arab and friendly states. The committee issued important political statements. The following is the text of the statement:

Since the signing of the Camp David capitulatory agreements, the region has been witnessing a fierce struggle between imperialism, Zionism and the surrendering and agent forces in the region on the one hand, and the forces which stand with vehemence and steadfastness against the U.S. designs in the region, spearheaded by the Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese nationalist alliance of struggle, on the other. The enemy forces have employed all their weapons to break our steadfastness and impose surrender on our front. However, our steadfastness has placed Camp David in its present predicament and has foiled the autonomy talks. The United States and Israel have recently resorted to an attempt at breaking our fighting front in Lebanon through an overt move to create new circumstances that might transform Lebanon into another Israel. In pursuing this the United States and Israel have employed continued Zionist aggressions and military attacks against southern Lebanon and have instigated the isolationist forces to impose their control and hegemony on Lebanon. The recent moves by the Arab Deterrent Forces and fraternal Syria were made to face the U.S.-Israeli plot in Lebanon and to realize national detente. Israel and the isolationist forces rushed forward to check these moves and caused a serious escalation in the confrontation, and created new facts which we must (?exploit) in order to prevent the United States and Israel from continuing their pressure and blackmail and in order to foil their plots.

The Palestine National Liberation Movement--Fatah stresses the following:

1. The aim of the U.S. plot is to complete the Camp David links by striking at the Palestinian presence and the Syrian steadfastness, paralyzing the Syrian pan-Arab role and transforming Lebanon into a new U.S.-Israeli base.
2. The Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese nationalist confrontation of the U.S.-Israeli plot in Lebanon constitutes a serious development in the Arab-Israeli dispute which necessitates the support of all the Arab states. Hence the importance of holding an immediate Arab foreign ministers conference in order to back this brave confrontation and to promote it so as to defeat Camp David and the U.S. plot. We find the stalling in the holding of such a conference very strange in light of the agreement demonstrated over the past 2 weeks by most Arab states to hold it, and despite the seriousness in the situation and the escalated Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and the Palestinian people in which the Israeli forces are using the most advanced U.S. weapons including internationally banned weapons.
3. We stress the importance of the continued confrontation of the U.S.-Israeli-isolationist plan to control Lebanon and to undermine its nationalist forces. This demands enhancing support for all Lebanese nationalist forces to enable them to defeat the U.S.-backed isolationist-Zionist scheme and to protect Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and Arabism;
4. Hastening to hold a Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist meeting is an important issue for drawing up a political working paper which includes a confrontation program supported by the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Arab League states in order to protect the confrontation policy which has been adopted in the present confrontation on the political and military levels by Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist forces and to develop this policy in order to impose Arab rights, particularly the rights of the Palestinian people;

5. All Arab capabilities must be mobilized on the Syrian-Lebanese front to launch the battle of Arab destiny.

6. We call on the world public opinion to stand against the U.S.-imperialist plan to bring tension into the region and endanger world peace, insisting on enslaving and oppressing the people of the region and on continuing to support Israel, the U.S. aggressive base in the region. Herein lies the role of the friendly USSR's stand in supporting this just confrontation of Israeli-U.S. aggression, threat and escalation in the region.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine the day before yesterday, the anniversary witnessed by our people, the Fatah Central Committee greets our people inside and outside the occupied homeland, particularly our masses inside the occupied homeland, whom we greet and respect for their heroism in confronting the occupation and its terrorism, to escalate their struggle. The Central Committee also greets the hero fighters of the joint forces who are being steadfast in southern Lebanon defending our Arab nation.

The Fatah movement, stemming from its role in confronting the Zionist enemy and the U.S. policy in the region, stresses to the masses of our Palestinian people, inside and outside the occupied homeland, and the masses of our Arab nation that it will remain in the heart of the fateful battle of the Arab nation until defeat is inflicted on all the enemies of our nation and people and until we secure our inalienable national rights, particularly the right to return, determine our destiny and establish the independent Palestinian state.

Glory and immortality for our honest martyrs. Glory for our Palestinian people and Arab nation. It is a revolution until victory.

Signed: The Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement--Fatah,
17 May 1981

FATAH MEMBER SAYS ARABS WILL FIGHT IF WAR ERUPTS

NC170737 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Brother Abu al-Walid [Col Sa'd Sayil] has said that the U.S. scheme is aimed at preventing the establishment of accord and stability in Lebanon. He said that the Israeli role in this scheme is to completely besiege the Palestinian revolution and the Arab Deterrent Forces by linking Marj 'Uyun and Jazzin. Brother Abu al-Walid said that as a result of the Israeli interference in Zahlah, Syria was compelled to reinforce its forces stationed in Lebanon with SAM missiles for air cover.

The enemy leaders, however, considered this step as having tipped the balance in Lebanon. He said that threats to attack the Syrian forces in Lebanon have begun and the situation is liable to erupt at any moment. The enemy has begun to prepare his army to launch his expected aggression.

Abu al-Walid noted that the isolationist Lebanese Front will fight on the side of the Zionist enemy if fighting erupts. In such a case, the Palestinian revolution will have to bear more burdens because it will fight on several fronts. He expressed his belief that should war break out and spread, other Arab forces will take part.

VOP URGES PALESTINIANS NOT TO ASSEMBLE, MOVE ABOUT

NC180554 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0545 GMT 18 May 81

[Station announcement]

[Text] All the brother citizens are urged not to assemble or move except when extremely necessary because of the isolationist shelling which is aimed at the innocent civilians in the Palestinian camps and nationalist areas in the capital, Beirut. Voice of Palestine, the voice of the Palestinian revolution.

PLO OFFICIAL PRAISES SAUDIS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS

LD161426 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Rafiq Shakir an-Natshah, the PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, said today that he has received additional funds from the Saudi Government to back the Palestinian revolution in its confrontation with the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon. He said that his additional support is practical confirmation of Saudi Arabia's policy to backing the Palestinian revolution financially and militarily. This support, which began in 1965, is increasing continuously.

He said: I salute Saudi Arabia, the king, the government and the people for their continuous backing for our revolution and cause. In view of the grave position of the Palestinian revolution, which alone is confronting the Israeli Army which has been trained to face all the Arab armies, I beseech God to guide those state which have not yet fulfilled their commitments.

VOP CITES AS-SAFIR ON SITUATION IN LEBANON

International Involvement

JN162147 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1540 GMT 16 May 81

[16 May editorial by Bilal al-Hasan in Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR entitled "Are We Facing Possibilities of International Confrontation as an Extension of a Regional Confrontation?"]

[Text] The confrontation between Syria and Israel through Lebanon becomes more acute day after day, even hour after hour. This crisis passed through the refinery of the regional powers 48 hours ago as Israel increased the degree of its challenge to Syria by sending a reconnaissance plane to find out the extent of the seriousness of the Syrian stand. Israel got a conclusive, clear answer when the plane was downed by missiles which Israel demands be withdrawn.

This crisis began to leave the refinery of the regional powers to pass through the refinery of the international forces 24 hours ago, through the direct means of massive navies.

The crisis began to publicize itself when U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig declared, directly after Syria had downed the Israeli plane, that time had begun to run out because the cause of the explosiveness of the crisis remained in Lebanon. This statement was immediately understood as direct U.S. encouragement to Israel and a direct U.S. threat to Syria, directly giving rise to the possibility of a military confrontation breaking out between the two sides.

Immediately following this the Soviet Union moved the aircraft carrier Moskva to an area near the Lebanese territorial waters. To counter this, the U.S. aircraft carrier Forrestal moved toward the eastern Mediterranean and it became apparent that seven U.S. warships at least are already present in the Mediterranean and in Israeli ports.

There is no doubt that this qualitative development in the course of the crisis will give rise to widespread anxiety throughout the world, for fear that this will lead to a regional confrontation between the two giants, whether directly, or by means of support given by each international side to its regional ally.

If opinions have sprung up which hold that the intensification of the crisis and its enlargement to such an extent would be the beginning of solving it politically and diplomatically, these opinions are not completely incorrect on condition that there is no exaggeration in [word indistinct] the situation.

Entrance of the superpowers directly into the arena of the conflict does not mean that a diplomatic solution will be achieved in a matter of hours, nor does it mean that a diplomatic solution might not pass through tensions and clashes which may occur here or there, in Al-Biqa' or in the south. These are clashes which would only be initiated by Israel, encouraged by the United States. However, whether a diplomatic solution is directly arrived at, or it is arrived at through military tension, several facts seem to be on their way to imposing themselves on the situation in the coming phase. The most prominent of these facts are:

1. The Soviet Union is in practice on the field as a basic fact to be discussed in the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Moreover, it has become a basic fact of discussion in searching for solution to the Lebanese crisis.
2. In achieving a diplomatic solution to the crisis, Syria would be a major winner and Israel would be major loser. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ishaq Rabin has expressed this by saying, "Syria has gained superiority over Israel following the recent developments of the missile crisis," and "Israel must prepare to pay a political price to achieve a political solution."
3. The haste with which U.S. Envoy Philip Habib connected the missile crisis with the internal Lebanese crisis and his rashness to the extent of discussing the details of the situation in Zahlah and Sannin are not an insistence springing from U.S. concern to help Lebanon to transcend its crisis, but an insistence stemming from U.S. enthusiasm over Israel's interests in the region. Israel, according to its analysts in its official radio station, views its strategic, long-term objective in Lebanon as achieving a political solution in which hegemony will belong to the Lebanese Front, so that its presence will open the door for official Israeli-Lebanese cooperation, by means of which Israel will complement its design with As-Sadat.

The developments of the regional and international crisis, as we can see it, does not pave the way for U.S.-Israeli aspirations. These developments simply pave the way for proposals which would concentrate on supporting Lebanese legitimacy at the expense of the Lebanese Front militias, which ought, in accordance with this situation, to take a more appropriate political size than it [word indistinct].

Directing solutions internationally toward supporting legitimacy at the expense of the militias automatically means tipping the balance in favor of Syria in the conflict with the militias since the Zahlah battle.

Perhaps President Sarkis's statement, which supports Syria in confronting current challenges, and Prime Minister al-Wazzan's statement preceding it, in addition to the positive content in the two statements, may be a warning about understanding this new international tendency, and an attempt to harmonize with its factors.

4. The international crisis, which may lead to a regional solution, first, of the missile crisis and second, of some of the aspects of the crisis in Lebanon, needs Arab cover. Perhaps Philip Habib's visit to Saudi Arabia today may be a beginning for such a cover. A few weeks ago, a senior Lebanese politician said that the crisis of Lebanon will not be solved until the Soviet MiG clashes with the U.S. Phantom in the skies over Beirut. Now warships have come instead of planes. Will the prophecy of the Lebanese politician come true?

Israeli Military Plans

JN172050 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1545 GMT 17 May 81

[Analysis by Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR--date not given]

[Text] Developments are crowding in around the Syrian-Israeli confrontation and its possibilities in a way that requires all sides to recalculate their accounts every day and to reassess their bets.

The intervention of the navies of the two superpowers in this confrontation as part of the power display in the region was not taken into account in various calculations. The approach of the Soviet naval units toward the Lebanese-Syrian coast, as it is claimed, was a result of the continued Israeli intransigence during the contacts of U.S. Presidential Envoy Philip Habib in his tour of Lebanon, Syria and Israel. Despite the fact that the Syrian leadership dealt positively with Habib's person, at the head of the mission for which he came, especially concerning his reception, it was clear and stern toward the mission itself.

While some observers believed that the positive view which some Syrian officials expressed toward Habib and his understanding as a reasonable negotiator, these officials affirm that this does not mean that Damascus can go back on its principled stand on the so-called missile crisis in Al-Biqa', which is the whole purpose of Habib's mission. On the level of the missile crisis, Damascus became so unyielding in the face of Habib's mission as to tell him that it does not believe there is a missile crisis because this is a defensive weapon in Lebanon for the use of the legitimate Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF].

Habib's mission has become complicated because he was unable to convince Israel to abandon its demand for the withdrawal of the missiles or to halt its attacks against Lebanon. He was also unable to convince Damascus to settle for a halt of Israeli Air Force overflights of Al-Biqa' in exchange for giving in to the U.S.-Israeli demand to withdraw the missiles.

As Habib's mission gained in complexity by his visit to Saudi Arabia to look for a way out for his mission, the complications of the military situation in the region were increased by the intervention of the naval units of the two giants. If confrontation leads to internationalization of the Lebanese crisis in a way that reduces the size of the Syrian role in it, it will pave the way for a more comprehensive internationalization of the regional crisis after the Camp David accords restricted solutions to the crisis in Washington, Egypt and Israel.

If the aim behind any confrontation is to reduce Palestinian resistance in the south and weaken Syria, the Arab oil countries and those Arab countries friendly to the United States are not about to accept this and keep silent about it. Some say that the aim behind the military escalation is for Begin to achieve a step by means of which he will guarantee his success in the elections and cause political forces to be unified around him. The political forces in the enemy state are divided on this issue.

If some expect that Begin will carry out a maniacal action in Lebanon which will reunify the Israeli society around him during war, others believe that any confrontation will undoubtedly lead to Israeli losses in exchange for the Syrian and Arab losses. This will increase the deterioration in the election situation of the Israeli prime minister. The opposition in such an event would count the planes which are downed and the positions which are shelled to use them negatively against Begin.

If contradictions over the various expectations have shown that the crisis of the Syrian-Israeli confrontation is not the kind to be solved in Zahlah or Sannin, the intervention of the U.S. and Soviet Navies and the downing of two Israeli planes in Al-Biqa' by Soviet SAM's have proved that the crisis solutions will not come only through diplomatic means.

Some observers say that the extension of the horizon of confrontation between the two sides, due to the complications in the map of the international and regional situations between the allies themselves and the conflicting parties, and extension of the horizons of a diplomatic solution to a potential military clash in this confrontation--all this encourages putting a stop to the current moves on the diplomatic and military levels because they aim at wasting time. Will this process of marking time continue while the hotter elements of the crisis remain the same for the missiles in Al-Biqa', the planes which roam the sky, the navies stationed in the sea and envoys who move among capitals?

The observers themselves say that the obscurity in the international and regional situations will not end without some military blow, the possibilities of which are formulated by those concerned as follows:

1. Israel would undertake a rapid overrunning operation by violating the line which has no UNIFIL forces at Ar-Rayhan and An-Nabatiyah forcing the Palestinian resistance to withdraw north of the Litani and extending the area of UNIFIL forces operations in a way which will allow them to take over the An-Nabatiyah area, after Israel threatens and shells the Syrian batteries in Al-Biqa' from there, because Israel would draw near to the batteries by occupying this area. The Palestinian resistance has taken precautions against such an attack and is trying to take new precautions. It is afraid of raids against the Palestinian camps and hopes that the air defense network will expand in a way which will protect these camps.
2. The enemy would carry out a storming operation toward the Western Al-Biqa' to destroy the Syrian missile batteries.
3. Israel would land troops on the surrounding heights and mountains of Zahlan and Sannin to strike the Syrian forces there.
4. The fourth and last possibility is that of setting the Golan front ablaze in a kind of war of attrition which would constitute a way out for the crisis, whose solution is still a closed door.

ABU MAYZAR EXPRESSES PLO CONCERN OVER MITTERRAND

JN111605 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1505 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Commenting on the election of Mitterrand, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman, said: Despite the extreme caution and deep concern with which we have received the results of the French presidential elections due to the known and unobjective stands of Francois Mitterrand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and on the Palestine issue, we, however, from the position of national and international responsibility, hope that Mitterrand will be transferred to the appropriate position of responsibility to reconsider his stands and policy toward the Middle East, making them compatible with international legality.

KUWAITOFFICIAL DISCOUNTS 'FULL-SCALE' SYRIA-ISRAEL WAR

LD171330 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1231 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 17 May (KUNA)--Kuwait today called on the Arab states to be prepared to deal with any eventualities that might develop in the Lebanese arena, stressing at the same time that the conditions in the area are passing through "critical and delicate moments." The call was made by 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, the minister of state for Cabinet affairs, at a news conference following the Kuwaiti Cabinet's weekly meeting today.

Husayn called on the Arab states "to be prepared to deal with any eventualities" in Lebanon and affirmed that the development of affairs in that Arab countries, which has been shattered by civil war, "is passing through critical and delicate moments."

However, the Kuwaiti minister discounted the likelihood of "full-scale war breaking out between Syria and Israel, which would take the form of actual confrontation between the two superpowers, the USSR and the United States."

Husayn pointed out that efforts are being made to hold an Arab conference to discuss the situation in Lebanon. But, he added, the level and venue of such a conference have not yet been determined. He added that Kuwait has expressed its readiness to attend such a meeting and that, if approved, the meeting will be held, as usual, at the [words indistinct] but many Gulf countries have offered to host it.

SAUDI ARABIAU.S. ENVOY HABIB ARRIVES IN RIYADH FOR TALKS

LD161054 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1040 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Riyadh, 16 May (SPA)--Philip Habib, the special envoy of U.S. President Reagan to the Middle East, arrived in Riyadh this morning on a brief visit to the kingdom within the framework of his current tour of a number of countries in the region.

He will hold talks with officials here on the current situation in the Arab area and Lebanon in light of the escalation of repeated Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

Meets With Prince Fahd

LD161828 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 May 81

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, this evening received Mr Philip Habib, envoy of the American President to the Middle East.

AL-JAZIRAH CRITICAL OF HABIB MISSION IN MIDEAST

LD151153 Jidda AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 12 May 81 p 3

[Editorial: "On U.S. Envoy's Mission in Beirut, Damascus, and Occupied Jerusalem"]

[Excerpts] Philip Habib is in Beirut. Philip Habib is in Damascus. Philip Habib is in occupied Jerusalem.

He is President Ronald Reagan's envoy to settle the Lebanese crisis, or rather to contain the Syrian-Israeli crisis in Lebanon.

But is this really the actual objective of the U.S. envoy? Or is the American objective behind the envoy's mission "to maintain the status quo in Lebanon that existed before the deployment of the Syrian missiles in the Al-Biqa' valley"?

If the objective of sending a special presidential envoy is what is declared--that is, to settle the Lebanese crisis, or contain the Syrian-Israeli crisis, or prevent a fifth war from breaking out because of the Lebanese situation--then U.S. envoy Philip Habib's visit should be restricted to Tel Aviv or occupied Jerusalem, since there is no need to visit Beirut or Damascus.

Beirut and Damascus had together begun taking steps which seemed more fruitful and successful for the Lebanese crisis. And they were very close to reaching a final formula acceptable for political accord between the Lebanese parties involved and the Syrians and Palestinians, as partners concerned in the crisis.

But Israel, which does not and will never have any interest whatever in the achievement of political accord in Lebanon or in Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese cooperation leading to a settlement of the Lebanese crisis and enabling Lebanon to regain its stability, security and peace as well as its normal position as an Arab state confronting Israel, detonated the crisis with Syria in Lebanon when it unjustifiably escalated its aggression in southern Lebanon and extended that aggression to the Al-Biqa' Valley by attacking Syrian helicopters which were not on a combat mission.

Israel then used the pretext of the Syrian reaction in moving SAM missile batteries to the Lebanese Al-Biqa' Valley and the south to concentrate strike forces and military equipment as well as set up batteries of heavy field artillery. Such action could only be understood as showing Israel's intention to launch a large-scale military operation that could be the beginning of a fifth war in the area, this time with Syria. Such a war would, of necessity, draw in other Arab countries or involve international parties concerned such as the United States, which is linked by a strategic alliance with Israel, and the Soviet Union, which has a friendship and cooperation treaty with Syria that says that aggression against one country is considered as aggression against the other.

Syria has explained its final stand to the U.S. envoy concerning the SAM's, saying that it has a right to place these missiles wherever it likes and that Israel's war threats do not intimidate it.

The normal thing would be for the U.S. envoy's mission to be restricted to Israel, first because it was Israel that started the aggression and, second, because Israel stands against Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian political efforts to reach national accord between the parties concerned in the Lebanese crisis and has sought every means to hamper such efforts, including that of direct military intervention.

The achievement of Israel's political and military objective should not always be the focal point of U.S. moves and open bias, without taking into consideration the existing facts or the principles of justice and right in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As we have always said, Israel fights with U.S. financial backing and with U.S. aircraft, tanks and guns. This places a special responsibility on the United States in the matter of stability and security in the area in general and in Lebanon in particular, as well as in preventing Israel from launching any aggression that might lead to a fifth war because of Lebanon.

Israel has never been and will never be now or in the future the guardian of Lebanon.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATES SUPPORT FOR LEBANON, SYRIA

LD171240 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1125 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Riyadh, 17 May (SPA)--The Saudi Kingdom today announced its absolute support for Syria and Lebanon and its stand on the side of the two sister countries in the face of any Israeli aggression against their sovereignty and independence. It also expressed its deep concern over Israel's escalation of the situation in Lebanon, a matter that reveals Israel's limitless expansionist intentions to the entire world.

The kingdom affirmed that the role sister Syria was playing in Lebanon stemmed from the support of the legitimate Lebanese authorities and that of the fraternal brother members of the Arab League.

The kingdom also affirmed its eagerness to preserve Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of the treacherous Israeli aggression.

This was said in a statement issued today by the Saudi Foreign Ministry. The following is the text of the statement:

The Saudi Kingdom has been following the continued Israeli aggressions against Lebanese territory and Israel's escalation of the situation there with extreme concern and strong denunciation. These Israeli aggressions provide yet further proof of, and most clearly expose to the whole world, Israel's limitless expansionist intentions.

In the face of this serious escalation, which threatens the security, independence and territorial integrity of the region's countries as well as international peace and security, the Saudi Kingdom wishes to reaffirm its stand on the side of Lebanon and its eagerness to bolster and support the legitimate authorities there and the Arab Deterrent Forces, which operate under the orders of the Lebanese authorities and which perform their duties in accordance with their pan-Arab role. They are entrusted with safeguarding Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity and with confronting the treacherous Zionist aggressions against Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This role, of which sister Syria shoulders a large share, stems from the support of the legitimate Lebanese authorities and the support of the brother members of the Arab League within the framework of their responsibilities for defending the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two fraternal countries in accordance with Arab and international charters.

We reiterate and reaffirm our determination to stand on the side of sister Syria in the face of any aggression against its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The Saudi Kingdom appeals to the leaders and commanders of Lebanon to support the country's legitimacy since it is the sole reason for their rallying. Their rallying around this cause is one of the most essential methods of thwarting the opportunities available to the lurking enemies and of concentrating the unified Arab efforts to confront the true threat represented by the treacherous Zionist aggression, which endangers the Arab entity. We ask God to make us all work for the good of our nation and its glory. [Statement is not signed.]

OFFICIAL CARRIES KING KHALID MESSAGE TO AL-ASAD

LD171322 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, assistant commander of the National Guard, left Riyadh today for Damascus with a message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

COMMENTATOR CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

LD171912 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 81

[Hashim Abdu Hashim commentary]

[Text] Those who visit Saudi Arabia come with the knowledge that we have a clear vision and defined attitudes toward various events and problems and that such clarity requires continuous consultations to reach certain results and practical solutions to the most urgent and serious problems. We believe that the reaching of such results becomes possible in light of constant unbiased attitudes, and it is not easy to achieve this end if there is no real desire to avoid further dangers and challenges. The Middle East is a real test for good will and harsh confrontation of all the attempts aimed at making heroic deeds and winning spoils at the expense of its peoples, states and its legitimate rights.

Nothing annoys us more in Saudi Arabia than the feeling that there is one who exploits contradictions of situations and tries to consecrate the unjust and wrong reality and who uses the deteriorating reality to achieve further illegitimate gains. Yes, we need stability. Yes, we need support and assistance to face the chances of unexpected dangers at any moment. And yes, we need development in order to acquire strong foundations for societies able to overcome the legacies of the past and the dangers of the present. But, God willing, we will never be the means by which other forces achieve gains at our expense.

We suffer from the unjust Israeli existence, but we also suffer from blackmailing in the name of this wrong existence. We suffer from the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, but we also suffer from the plot aimed at the continuation of the attempts to violate this nation until it falls and collapses at their feet. We suffer from the continuation of the unnatural situation between the brothers in Iraq and Iran, but we will not submit and capitulate to the temptations of foreign help and containment in return for reaching an illusory formula for stability. We suffer from the bleeding of our capabilities day in and day out and from the continued misunderstanding of our attitudes by the international community, but we will not stop working for the preservation of our rights and we will make known our views with unlimited vigor, audacity and courage to the concerned parties on all that is taking place. It should be understood that the region cannot become a zone of influence in which the superpowers realize their dreams and ambitions. In addition, disputes cannot transform us into a tattered force, weak and not ready to forget the past. This cannot happen because the destiny of the problems that bring us together is capable of uniting our steps, uniting us and eliminating all the causes of disunity among us. It is unnatural for any Arab state to remain an onlooker while witnessing serious encroachments on the security, stability and safety of one of the brothers and a violation which no law or custom can accept or to which a nation can yield. What is now happening in the Arab region in particular contains many dangers, but it may carry some good for this nation because it has enough differences, disunity, disagreement and estrangement. And so it should benefit from this situation in its reality being reshaped on the basis of giving priority to the common interest. And if the current international efforts are aimed at achieving a settlement, at calming down and at avoiding an explosion, the tranquilizing method, even if it spares the world the dangers of any coming war in the region, remains a temporary measure that should not be considered sufficient or acceptable in return for guaranteeing the avoidance of an explosion, because the question is: What comes next?

While receiving more envoys and parties interested in conditions in the region, we try to find with them the best ways of achieving conditions which are more stable and lasting. And there is no ambiguity in visualizing this comprehensive method of resolving explosive attitudes, at least on our side. We are confident that any solution which does not deal with the problem as a whole remains shaky, and this in itself will not serve the cause of lasting peace and stability in the region, even if it removes the specter of war. Are the joint efforts to continue in a vicious circle, or is a serious search for a just and comprehensive solution to begin? This is what we wish.

MATERIALS ON STERNER MEETINGS, STATEMENTS

Al-Baz Meeting

NC161348 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz met at noon today with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sterner. The meeting was attended by the head of the Egyptian side in the joint military committee, Maj Gen Muhsin Hamdi. Our correspondent has learned that the discussions dealt with issues pertinent to the formation of the multinational force and the points of disagreement on this issue.

Ghali Comments

NC161550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said that he stressed to Michael Sterner, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, several points relevant to the formation of the multinational force. The points are:

1. The force must be formed of the greatest number of countries possible.
2. The responsibility must be shared by these countries.
3. The mission of the force must be temporary until a UN force is formed.
4. This force must respect Egyptian sovereignty over the Sinai.
5. The mission of the force must be confined to implementing the Egyptian-Israeli treaty articles.

Butrus Ghali met with the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state and discussed the various ways of forming the multinational force. Ghali stressed that Egypt is acting on two parallel lines: The first is to hold contacts to form a force under UN sponsorship, and if this UN force is not formed, contacts will be held to form a multinational force.

As-Sadat Reception

LD171108 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat this morning received Michael Sterner, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, and the delegation accompanying him at the Al-Ma'murah Resthouse. The meeting was also attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak and Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The deputy prime minister earlier held a 1-hour meeting with the deputy assistant secretary of state at the [word indistinct] hotel.

Joint Press Conference

GF171841 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Alexandria, 17 May (MENA)--Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Michael Sterner, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, held a press conference following the second round of their discussions at Palestine Hotel in Alexandria. At the beginning of the conference, Sterner said: I am pleased to have met with President Anwar as-Sadat and Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali. I wish to express my gratitude for having the opportunity to do so. We have exchanged useful information on the Sinai problem. As you know, I have returned to the region at this time to carry out my main mission, which is to resume the talks on the question of peace-keeping in Sinai, which is linked to Israel's final withdrawal. We have exchanged useful views.

Then Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The talks, which included some technical issues, have been complementary to the military talks held in Washington. There has been an agreement on some points and other issues will be discussed further. With regard to Sterner's meeting with President as-Sadat, the meeting was held in order to discuss some major political issues. The Egyptian point of view on these issues has been explained.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added: We have discussed the formation of the peacekeeping force with regard to its force, number and duties and whether this force would belong to the UN or would be a multinational force. The United States is trying to reconcile the Egyptian views with those of Israel.

Asked about the issues that have been agreed upon and the extent of agreement on them, Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: I believe we have made great progress during the Washington talks as well as during the talks that have been held in Egypt. We are still discussing some points, which Sterner will also discuss in Israel.

Asked whether there were certain issues still to be discussed further, 'Ali said: I cannot go into details now. Then he added: We have discussed the peacekeeping force with regard to its composition, and not with regard to its nationalities. Asked about As-Sadat's meeting with Sa'd Murtada, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the meeting dealt with the relations between Egypt and Israel and also the current situation in Lebanon.

Asked about the current talks, Sterner said: The talks have been going on well and as the foreign minister has said several issues still remain to be discussed further and I shall convey them to Israel. We consider the bilateral meetings to be the means to ease these difficulties. I expect the talks to be constructive.

Then Sterner was asked about the issues that have been agreed upon and the issues that were discussed. He said: You already know that the issues discussed here were discussed before. There is a substantial agreement between the two sides. However, some issues need to be resolved. Asked about the differences over political and technical aspects, he said: I believe they are political and technical to a certain extent.

Sterner was asked about events in Lebanon concerning Israel and Syria and whether the Lebanese situation will influence the talks. He said: I leave it to the deputy prime minister to present the Egyptian view on this question. However, as far as the United States is concerned I believe that the formation of this force and the process of deploying it must occur at the specified time. We do not want these developments to influence the progress that has been made.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali was asked whether what was happening in the region would influence the talks. He said: The situation is not contradictory and will not influence the parties concerned with the talks. The treaty must be implemented no matter what happens.

He was then asked if Egypt would be obliged to sever relations with Israel, if war broke out between Israel and Syria. He answered: We have said before that the peace process must continue. We have begun negotiating the Palestinian question and thus we have to continue the march toward the Palestinian question. With regard to any conflict in the region, we must look for any method or peaceful way to stop this conflict and avoid it.

Asked about Egypt's stand if Syria seeks its help, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: This is not Egypt's responsibility alone. It is the responsibility of the entire world. As it is Egypt's responsibility, so, too, it is the responsibility of the European society. All of the East and West must seek to stop the conflict in the region, because it will affect the entire world.

Sterner was asked whether the United States supports Egypt's efforts to form a UN force. He said: "Egypt has contacted a number of Security Council members and asked if it was possible to form a UN force. I believe we have finally reached the conclusion that this will not be possible. You know that the Egyptian Government has written to the Security Council chairman on the same subject and I believe it is awaiting an answer on this subject.

Sterner was again asked: You have said that nothing in the area must delay the talks between Israel and Egypt, do you believe that what is happening now between Israel and Syria will not influence the talks at all? Sterner said: To my knowledge, both sides are fully determined to implement the peace treaty. As you know, the arrangements for the withdrawal from Sinai are part of the peace treaty and that both sides insist on implementing the treaty.

Sterner was asked: Is it possible that an agreement will be reached on the formation of the peacekeeping force during the bilateral talks next week. He said: I believe this is a great undertaking. However, the progress we have made so far will help us achieve this in the near future.

MATERIALS ON U.S. DEFENSE DELEGATION'S TALKS

Abu Ghazalah Meeting

NC161438 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)--Minister of Defense and War Production Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah today received assistant the U.S. defense secretary for international security and foreign aid, Francis West, who is currently visiting Cairo. Following their 1-hour meeting, Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah said that they discussed the arms programs, adding that the United States has no objections to supplying Egypt with certain kinds of weapons. Abu Ghazalah added that a 5-year plan has been drawn up to modernize the armed forces and that implementation of this plan will begin immediately. He also said that they discussed advancing the date of the U.S. arms deliveries to Egypt for which contracts have already been signed. Following the meeting, the assistant U.S. defense secretary visited the armored corps training center.

As-Sayyid Meeting

GF171939 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)--Dr Jamal ad-Din as-Sayyid, the minister of state for war production, met today with Francis West, the U.S. assistant defense secretary, and the military delegation accompanying him. Dr Jamal ad-Din as-Sayyid said that during the meeting they discussed the issues and projects that were agreed upon by the two countries in light of the memorandum of understanding between Egypt and the United States that deals with military cooperation.

The minister of state for war production added that [words indistinct] of arms production with the United States of America in addition to exchanging views with the U.S. administration, represented by Mr West, who expressed his country's readiness to provide Egypt with technical help in order to manufacture various equipment and advanced weapons in local weapons factories.

Assistant Defense Minister

NC160954 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)--Assistant Defense Minister Maj Gen Mustafa Sadiq has stated that the U.S. delegation led by Francis West, U.S. assistant defense secretary for international security, which arrived in Cairo yesterday, carries answers to the questions that were raised during the recent Washington visit by Defense and War Production Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah.

In a statement published by AL-AHRAM today, the assistant defense minister says that the dates for supplying the new arms to Egypt will be fixed during the Egyptian-U.S. discussions scheduled to begin today. In the meantime, we will submit to the U.S. side the (?study) the Egyptian side has conducted in the field of the armaments we will receive as well as on the arms modernization to be carried out.

Regarding Egyptian military industrialization in accordance with the cooperation protocol signed with the United States, Maj Gen Mustafa Sadiq said that a study is being conducted on the manufacture of a modern fighter aircraft that would match the MiG-21 and MiG-23 and that would be inexpensive to produce yet suitable for operation until the year 2000. He added that Egypt has several tenders from foreign companies to manufacture this aircraft locally.

Maj Gen Mustafa Sadiq added that the U.S. side is continuing to supply the equipment and weapons on which agreement has been reached. He said that some of this equipment is being received by Egypt for the first time, such as the early warning Hawkeye aircraft, air-defense Hawk missile batteries, F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft and M-60A3 tanks, and that the shipment of the M-113 armored cars will be completed. The assistant defense minister said that these weapons are part of the 5-year U.S. military aid program to Egypt, for which \$900 million has been allocated this year.

PAPER INTERVIEWS 'ALI ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

NC170024 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] London, 16 May (MENA)--Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has affirmed that relations between Egypt and the United States are proceeding normally. Nevertheless, he said, sometimes we may differ as friends, but so far we have not.

In an interview published in ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT today, Kamal Hasan 'Ali made this affirmation in reply to a question regarding the present status of Egyptian-U.S. relations and whether it would be possible to say if there had been a complete identity of views between both states.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali noted U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to the area, which was an ex oratory tour, saying: We have been extremely frank with the Americans on all that has been discussed concerning the Palestinian question.

On the situation in the area, 'Ali said: The U.S. side heard our views very well, realizing the consistency of our strategy, whether on peace or confronting foreign threats. He added: Egypt pointed out that the Middle East issue was the main reason behind the Soviet Union's entrance into the area. The Soviet Union is still enjoying a strong position because of the lack of a solution to the Palestinian question. He emphasized: We feel that the United States is fully convinced that facing Soviet hegemony is parallel to finding a solution to the Palestinian question. He said: Haig frankly declared to us while he was in Cairo that continuing the Soviet influence and polarization was completely parallel to keeping the Palestinian question unsolved.

Answering a question on the reason for the postponement of President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to the United States until the end of the summer, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the visit came initially within the framework of a tripartite summit meeting among the U.S. President, President as-Sadat and the Israeli prime minister. However, separate bilateral meetings were necessary between the three.

He added: Out of a definition of the Camp David conceptions and since the United States was preparing its policy, some time was needed until U.S. foreign policy was crystallized before holding any meetings.

On the possibility that the Egyptian-U.S. agreement on the dimensions of the Soviet threat would lead to a joint security plan in line with Egypt's strategic position, beginning by opening the door to the stationing of U.S. troops in Sinai, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: First of all, the Egyptian-U.S. agreement on strategy comes within the mutual coordination of joint security plans in the area. First, we have great interest in these plans to defend the Egyptian borders, and secondly comes our commitment to the Arab collective security pact. If this leads to the presence of bases, it is completely rejected.

The United States is well aware of this and does not attempt to raise the issue of the military bases on our territory, particularly in Sinai. There is a quasiagreement on other facilities that will be granted to the United States to help any Arab or Islamic country asking the United States to assist it in repelling any aggression or threat of aggression, and this is a complete departure from what we call the mutual security plans between Egypt and the United States.

On the escalation in polarization in the area, Kamal Hasan 'Ali underlined: We have never worked for such polarization, as indicated by our termination of the Egyptian-Soviet treaty--the signing of which had been polarization itself. As an example, he gave the Syrian-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty and Libya's future treaties, which represent some kind of polarization--a matter we are against.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: America did not ask us to conclude such a treaty with it and we absolutely do not contemplate such a treaty. However, it is known why our strategy concurs with the U.S.' strategy. It stems from the fact that the Soviet presence in Afghanistan represents a threat to and must be faced by the countries of the area.

Replying to a question on Egypt's readiness to store U.S. arms and military equipment, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt would not object to storing U.S. arms and military equipment as long as this came within the framework of giving facilities to the United States. He added: What we object to is the permanent presence of a foreign base and soldiers on our land; we have rejected, reject and will continue to reject this in the future.

On reports about the U.S.' establishing military bases for the Egyptian forces that may be used in defending the area's countries and whether this represented a true picture of U.S. bases, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The United States has bases in many parts of the world; this makes it unnecessary to establish new military bases. However, if the United States wanted to use the facilities of any of these bases, then it can add some installations in or develop these bases. He added: I again say that we have refused, now refuse and will in the future refuse the establishment of U.S. bases.

Replying to a question on reports that it had almost been agreed that U.S. forces be deployed in Sinai and that Israel would not withdraw before a U.S. presence had been established in the area, Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized that this point in particular had not been raised as an agreement but only as a possibility in the absence of adequate forces that would carry out the peacekeeping responsibilities in Sinai.

'Ali added: Of course, this comes as a third priority since the first priority is the participation of a UN force. If this were impossible, however, then there is the second priority, which is the multinational force. Otherwise, the third priority will be the participation of token U.S. forces if a multinational force is formed in which these forces will not have command or control.

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL MAKES STATEMENT ON LEBANON

NC161624 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)--The Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign and National Security Affairs Committee has stressed that the present conflict in Lebanon is the result of the Syrian and foreign interference and the Israeli ambitions in Lebanese territory. The committee called for a unified Arab action under the present circumstances and for exerting efforts to safeguard Lebanon's safety and territorial integrity.

In a statement that was read by the committee's chairman, Sayyid Nawfal, today, the committee demanded the withdrawal of all the Syrian forces from Lebanon and for stopping all Israeli interference and military attacks on the Lebanese territory.

The committee welcomed the response by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the committee's earlier appeal to stop their financial aid to the Syrian forces. The committee stressed the need for the solidarity of the Arabs and all the world to confront the danger threatening the region's security and the world's peace.

The following is the text of the statement which Dr Sayyid Nawfal, the chairman of the Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign and National Security Affairs Committee read today.

The Consultative Council's Foreign and National Security Affairs Committee has been hourly following up with great concern the recent developments and deteriorating conditions in Lebanon and their increasing danger after Israel exploited the naval maneuvers and increased its interference and threats in order to increase the intensity of the local conflict in Lebanon and implement its expansionist aims in southern Lebanon.

In appreciation of the danger of the two superpowers naval movements in the direction of the Lebanese shores, the committee asserts that the current conflict in Lebanon, which claims hundreds of innocent souls daily, is the result of Syrian and foreign interference and Israeli ambitions.

When referring to the seriousness of the stage through which the Arab nation is passing and to the collective Arab responsibility toward the Lebanese state and people and the peoples of the Arab nation, and to this nation's joint responsibility for safeguarding the region's security, the committee calls for the unification of the Arab action under these circumstances, in order to exert all efforts to safeguard Lebanon's safety and territorial integrity and for:

1. The immediate withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon.
2. The stopping of all Israeli interference and the Israeli Army's attacks against Lebanon.
3. The strengthening of the Lebanese Army to discharge its responsibility in safeguarding Lebanon's territorial integrity and the formation of a neutral international emergency force if the Lebanese Army fails to do so.
4. Appealing to all the Arab states to provide all kinds of humanitarian aid to the victims of the Lebanese civil war.
5. Welcoming the response by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the committee's earlier appeal to stop financial aid to the Syrian forces, which, as has been ascertained, are a catspaw for the foreign ambitions and a force of aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.
6. The solidarity of the Arabs and all the world in confronting the danger threatening the region's security and the world's peace.

GHALI CRITICIZES SYRIA, ISRAEL ON LEBANON

LD180226 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has commented on the worsening situation in Lebanon. He has said that the Arab Republic of Egypt denounces any attempt to divide Lebanon or undermine its sovereignty. Dr Butrus Ghali added: For this reason, President Anwar as-Sadat has called for the withdrawal of all foreign elements from Lebanon and denounced Israeli and Syrian interference in Lebanon's internal affairs. Dr Butrus Ghali said that if the Lebanese Army cannot defend Lebanon, then an international emergency force must be formed for a transitional period, during which the Lebanese Army can undertake the responsibility of preserving Lebanon's independence.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 15-17 MAY

Communique No 337

JN151739 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

- A. Our units pounded an enemy personnel concentration in the Nowsud region with various weapons and forced the enemy personnel to flee, leaving behind nine dead, whose bodies are still on the battlefield.
- B. One of our forward units raided enemy positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region and hit them hard with various weapons, killing 48 and destroying 3 tanks, 1 field gun and 2 vehicles.
- C. One was killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
- D. Three were killed in the Sumar region.
- E. Seven were killed and one vehicle destroyed in the Mimak region.
- F. Four were killed and one observation post destroyed in the Dezful region.
- G. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our positions in the Shush region. The enemy was pounded hard with various weapons and forced to retreat, after losing 18 dead, 1 armored personnel carrier loaded with personnel and 1 field gun. Two infantry positions, one observation post and one stockpile of hardware were also destroyed in the same region.
- H. Our units hit hard with various weapons an enemy concentration in front of our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region and forced the enemy personnel to flee, after killing 31 and destroying 1 vehicle.
- I. One field gun was destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
- J. Four were killed and three field guns, three vehicles, two excavators, one observation post and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 125 dead, 2 infantry positions, 3 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 6 field guns of various calibers, 7 vehicles, 2 excavators, 3 observation posts and 3 stockpiles of hardware.

II. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: 21 martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: One mortar damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 May 1981

Communique No 338

JN161648 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)--Our armed forces killed 26 of the Persian enemy forces and destroyed various military equipment in the frontline's operational sectors yesterday evening and today. Communique No 338 issued by the Armed Forces General Command said that our forces forced a Persian enemy concentration in the Shush region to retreat. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 338 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is the results of our armed forces activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

- A. One tank was destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
- B. Three were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
- C. Two observation posts were destroyed in the Mimak region.
- D. Five were killed and one observation post and one vehicle were destroyed in the Dezful region.

E. Our units hit an enemy concentration with various weapons in the Shush region and forced them to retreat after killing 11 and destroying 2 field guns and 2 vehicles carrying ammunition.

F. Seven were killed and two infantry positions, two vehicles and 3 observation posts were destroyed in the Abadan region.

G. This morning the enemy tried to attack one of our firmly-established bases, which is entrusted with the task of tightening the siege on the city of Abadan. The attempt failed after the enemy had suffered heavy losses.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 26 dead and 2 infantry positions, 1 tank, 2 field guns, 5 vehicles and 6 observation posts destroyed.

II. It has been confirmed that the enemy losses, as a result of our units' activities in the Shush region on 14 May, were 183 dead, in addition to the losses announced then.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Six martyrs in all sectors.

B. In equipment: One mortar and one field gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 May 1981

Communique No 339

JN171719 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The soldiers of Saddam's al-Qadidisyah hit the forces of the ignorant and arrogant Persians hard in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Three were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.

B. Nine were killed and one infantry position and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.

C. Three were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mimak region.

D. One was killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Dezful region.

E. Three were killed and one tank was destroyed in the Shush region.

F. Four were killed and one field gun and one vehicle were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.

G. Our forward units continued to pound the enemy force which tried yesterday morning to attack one of our firmly-entrenched bases in the Abadan region. As is its custom, the enemy is trying to deceive itself and the Iranian peoples by scoring alleged victories, such as its fictitious victories in Khafajiyah, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and other operational sectors. In its desperate attempt, the enemy sustained the following losses: 307 killed and 3 infantry positions and 1 tank destroyed.

H. Our forces hit a large naval target in Gowr-e Musa north of the Arab Gulf and destroyed it.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 330 killed and 4 infantry positions, 2 tanks, 1 field gun, 2 vehicles, 2 observation posts, 1 stockpile of hardware, and 1 large naval target destroyed.

II. It has been ascertained that, in addition to its losses announced at the time, the enemy sustained the following losses as a result of our units' activities:

A. Twenty-nine were killed and 2 field guns, 4 vehicles and 1 stockpile of hardware were destroyed on 11, 12 and 13 May in the Iranian region facing Panjwin.

B. Forty-five were killed on the night of 13-14 May in the Khafajiyah region.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 15 martyrs in all sectors.

B. In equipment: Two vehicles, two missile launchers and one armored vehicle damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 May 1981

BEIRUT RADIO CITES EGYPTIAN MINISTER ON NEUTRALITY

NC151712 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali announced today that the Egyptian Army will adopt a neutral position in the event of an armed conflict between Syria and Israel in Lebanon. He added that Cairo will only resort to diplomatic pressure for the protection of Lebanon's sovereignty and Middle East peace.

AL-WAZZAN SUMMONS SOVIET, U.S. AMBASSADORS

NC151521 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister al-Wazzan has summoned the Soviet and U.S. ambassadors to meet with him tomorrow to discuss the successive local and regional developments, especially in the wake of today's reports that Soviet and U.S. naval units are moving toward the Lebanese coast. The meeting with the Soviet ambassador will take place at 0930 and the meeting with the U.S. ambassador will take place at 1030 tomorrow, at the Government House.

U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean visited B'abda today and met with President Sarkis in the presence of Minister Butrus. After the 40-minute meeting, Ambassador Dean said that he was not told anything and that he knew nothing about the 6th Fleet moving toward Lebanon.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON LEBANESE SITUATION

NC161240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 81

[Interview with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov following a meeting in Beirut with Lebanese Prime Minister al-Wazzan--Read by announcer]

[Text] At 0930 today, Prime Minister al-Wazzan received Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov, who was accompanied by the Soviet charge d'affaires, and reviewed with them the volatile situation in Lebanon and the area. Following the meeting, the following discussion took place between the Soviet ambassador and journalists:

[Question] Can you tell us what the prime minister asked you? [Answer] I was summoned by Prime Minister al-Wazzan to exchange views on the situation in Lebanon and the area.

[Question] Was any specific message conveyed to you by Prime Minister al-Wazzan? [Answer] Yes, there was a specific message in which Prime Minister al-Wazzan expressed Lebanon's official attitude toward current developments. We will convey this official attitude to Soviet officials.

[Question] In your opinion, will there be a confrontation between Syria and Israel?

[Answer] We can say that the recent developments in Lebanon are dangerous and tense.

[Question] Does the Soviet-Syrian treaty apply to the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon?

[Answer] We do not wish to talk about the treaty, especially since the recent developments are unrelated to the Soviet-Syrian treaty. As for our stand toward the Syrian actions in Lebanon, this stand is known. We support the Syrian steps aimed at stopping the battles in Lebanon and improving the situation.

[Question] What is the significance of the Soviet naval activity in the Mediterranean?

[Answer] We have no knowledge of any movements by the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean. We only know that, as usual, the fleet is there and is performing its normal mission.

[Question] It is being said that there are Soviet naval units near the Lebanese coast.

[Answer] We have no knowledge of this.

Answering a question on whether there has been any withdrawal from Sannin, the Soviet ambassador said: These are Lebanese affairs that you must answer.

[Question] Is the Soviet Union participating with the United States in trying to calm the situation in Lebanon, and in what form is this participation? [Answer] We are holding contacts and exchanging views with several states, above all the Arab states. Moreover, we know with certainty that the Soviet Union's stand has been conveyed to the U.S. Government.

AL-WAZZAN VIEWS DISCUSSION WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC161308 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] At 1030 today Prime Minister al-Wazzan received U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Gunther Dean. Following their 1-hour meeting, the U.S. ambassador said: The meeting was held at the request of Prime Minister al-Wazzan. I am happy with the meeting. I will leave Prime Minister al-Wazzan to make a statement on it.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan then answered journalists' questions:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, what is the outcome of today's meetings, especially vis-a-vis current international activity?

[Answer] In view of the escalating tension in the area, which has been accompanied by reports, speculation and a tense atmosphere--all indicating the dangers of a confrontation or a flareup for which Israel is preparing, I deemed it fit to meet with Soviet and U.S. ambassadors. We all know the influence of these two countries on the international scene and in the area. Out of a sense of responsibility, I inquired about certain aspects of the crisis and the recent developments. I also voiced concern at Israel's practices and its growing aggressive threats.

I emphasized two points. First, I affirmed Lebanon's official attitude, which was expressed during the telephone conversation between President Sarkis and President Hafiz al-Asad. This attitude is one of full solidarity with Syria in the face of the existing Israeli challenge.

Lebanon, like the other Arab states, has adopted a stand of firm support for and solidarity with all its Arab brethren against Israel. There can be no compromise whatsoever regarding this.

Second, Lebanon has no desire for war, especially if its country is going to be the battlefield and while its people are heavy with wounds. The two superpowers must apply all kinds of pressure to prevent an eruption by restraining Israel and preventing it from launching its aggression. [end recording]

U.S. AMBASSADOR DENIES EVACUATION ORDER ISSUED

NC161212 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Contrary to some reports, U.S. ambassador to Lebanon John Gunther Dean at noon today affirmed that the U.S. Embassy in Beirut has not issued any official order for the evacuation of U.S. nationals from Lebanon. The ambassador added that the embassy has asked only 9 persons out of a total of 59 embassy employees to be prepared to return to the United States. According to some reports, the embassy has asked U.S. nationals in Lebanon to remain in the country if they feel that this is necessary. A U.S. Embassy spokesman said that the embassy has not requested the evacuation of the 2,168 U.S. nationals in Lebanon.

FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONDS TO LIBYAN STATEMENTS

NC161811 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] The Libyan offer to install SAM missiles in the south has roused the interest of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry.

Sources at the Foreign Ministry have said that so far the Lebanese Government has not been notified of any official request to this effect. However, it explained that such an action will heighten tension in the area, especially since Israel, which had rejected the presence of missiles in Al-Biq'a, will vehemently reject their presence in the south. The sources recalled what the head of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Lebanon had said about his country giving some weapons to the Palestinians. Here it can be said that Al-Murabitun has recently received some Libyan guns.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT, PALESTINIANS MOBILIZE

JN152118 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] The Lebanese National Movement issued a statement this evening in which it proclaimed general national mobilization throughout Lebanon to repulse the aggression which the Zionist entity is preparing against southern Lebanon, in alliance with the rightist militias. A statement issued by the movement in Beirut today asserted that the United States is behind this aggression and supports the Zionist entity militarily and in all other fields. The Palestinian resistance had announced, in the words of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, general mobilization in its ranks as a precaution against the Zionist aggression.

HADDAD SPEAKS ON LEBANESE ISSUES, HABIB TOUR

Attacks Sarkis, Al-Asad

NC151056 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 May 81

[Statement by Major Haddad--read by announcer, date and place not given]

[Text] In free Lebanon Major Haddad commented on certain topical issues, as follows: When one listens to His Excellency President as-Sadat one cannot help acknowledging that one listens to reason and logic and cannot help supporting him. I wish the Syrians and saboteurs had heeded As-Sadat's talk. If they did, they would have saved themselves and others many losses in lives, let alone ruination and destruction. If the Arabs used logic and reason only once and did what President as-Sadat advised them, they would be among the happiest people.

The most ridiculous thing, Haddad said, is that Sarkis contacted Al-Asad to express his solidarity with him in confronting the Israeli danger. At the same time Sarkis asked Philip Habib to persuade Hafiz al-Asad to withdraw his forces from Sannin, to replace them with Lebanese Army units. I would like to ask here, Haddad says, if any government official or someone close to the government can explain this contradiction between the two positions. If President Sarkis really supports the Syrians, he would then have to condemn the Lebanese Army personnel who are repulsing the Syrian Army in Beirut and Jubal Lubnan and send them, together with the army commander, to military courts on charges of rebellion and high treason. If, however, his excellency disagrees with the Syrian Army's actions in Lebanon and he is powerless against these forces, which act as occupation forces receiving orders directly from Damascus, then, Major Haddad said, his excellency must publicly announce this fact and not secretly whisper this to the U.S. envoy.

Until his excellency makes up his mind which of the two positions he will adopt, we and all Lebanese people are waiting--not to mention the lives that will be lost and property that will be destroyed.

The Syrian information media have not stopped attacking the Americans and their envoy to the Middle East. At the same time, Hafiz al-Asad receives the U.S. envoy warmly and hospitably and meets with him for long hours. If Syria really doubted the U.S. role it would have settled the issue from the beginning and refused to receive Philip Habib. However, the facts are quite different from the public statements spread for local consumption. Thus, Major Haddad said, we must believe saboteur Abu az-Sa'im that Syria has actually entered the Camp David negotiations secretly. This is more logical.

Haddad further said: I say to those who demand that the Syrian forces stay in Lebanon and defend their role--that they are like a wife with a lover who demands from her husband that he keep her lover at home, defending his useful role.

Saudi, Palestinian Roles

NC170910 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Free Lebanon Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad made the following comments on two topical issues:

The U.S. politicians seem to understand the Syrian rulers' weak point--money. They also seem to understand that if Syria's use of the slogans on Arab rights, confrontation and steadfastness, honor, pride and Arabism are lost or infringed upon, it can be compensated with money. Thus we see Saudi Arabia trying to resolve the missile crisis in Lebanon by writing some checks to the Syrians.

It is clear that Syria has fabricated all crises and events in Lebanon, and so many people have been killed, others displaced and property damaged in Lebanon for the single aim of extorting Saudi Money. If this is the case, Major Haddad said, we call on the Saudis to give to the Syrians abundantly this time, so that they will withdraw not only their missiles, but also all of their forces from Lebanon. We, in turn, Haddad said, will consider these funds as our debt, which we pledge to pay off in full to the Saudis later on.

Second: It is not enough for Syria to deny former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco's statement to believe it [as heard]: Sisco has no interest in fabricating the story of the [red line] agreement, which is not strange to our complete knowledge. We have repeatedly pointed out to the saboteurs that Syria is not zealous about their interests and that it does not want them. Syria is using and exploiting them for its own interests. Syria is unregretfully driving them to their death. How often has Israel wreaked havoc among them while nearby Syrian positions were content to watch? This refutes Syria's claim that it entered Lebanon to protect the Palestinian resistance.

Anyway, Haddad said, now that the facts have been revealed it is not too late for the saboteurs to correct things. All they have to do is to withdraw from the south and other parts of Lebanon and go to the large and rich Arab countries to earn their living in honor. Anyone who stays in Lebanon must lay down his arms and return to the camps to save his life, honor and pride, so that he will not remain a commodity in the hands of the Syrians or anyone else. This is the best piece of advice that can be given to them.

UN Role, Habib Tour

NC171436 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0945 GMT 17 May 81

[17 May address by free Lebanon Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad in English--live or recorded]

[Text] Our good listeners, good day.

First of all I want to congratulate the Norwegian officers and soldiers in our area on their independence day. I wish for them all the best and I wish also that they will do their job much more better to help us to get our independence, because you know our independence went away long time ago, 5 years ago, when the PLO and the Syrians controlled most parts of Lebanon. I ask them to be more careful and to give more attention against the PLO terrorist activity against us, because 2 days, last night and the night before, there was infiltration from the side of Ibil as-Saqy towards our area. So I hope the attempt will not be successful and the UN Norwegian soldiers will be able to stop at time in purpose not to let us intervene or interfere by force to stop this action and maybe sometimes our intervention could harm some UN soldiers--that we are avoiding always to do it. [as heard]

Second: We are very glad also that the pope recovered from the attempt made against his life, and by this occasion I hope that the free countries will open their eyes much more to fight terrorism, international terrorism. We know that this terrorism also entered inside the White House when they attempted also to assassinate Mr Reagan also. So we hope that there will be some (?coalition) between the free countries against the terrorism, and I am sure always that there is some link between all the terrorists in the world and the terrorists inside Lebanon, because Lebanon became the main base of terrorism of the world, and this base encouraged and financed by, mainly by Libya, by Mu'ammr al-Qadhafi, because Mu'ammr al-Qadhafi declares very openly he is basis of any action of terrorism. I do not know if he is involved, Mu'ammr al-Qadhafi, against the person of the pope. Maybe there is some link. Anyhow, the future will discover everything.

Third: We have to, we cannot neglect, I am speaking, I am now speaking about the visit of Mr Philip Habib. He is trying hard to avoid the war between Israel and Syria and in some way trying to help to ease the tension in Lebanon, but during this trip there is some fact and some truth which appeared to the world. Like what? For example, when Philip Habib met with President Sarkis, the request of Sarkis is to make negotiations with the Syrians to ask them to withdraw from Sannin heights and to give it to the Lebanese Army, and also to withdraw from around Zahlah and also to deploy the Lebanese Army inside and around Zahlah. These are two requests, small requests, but they mean a lot. They mean that the so-called legitimate authority has no control upon the Syrian forces in Lebanon. If this authority will have, or would have a control upon these forces, this authority was able to give them direct order to withdraw also from around Zahlah, but they have no control and for that they are asking the mediation of other person or other country to help them to ease the tension in Lebanon and to stop the massacre going on against the people of Zahlah.

So, it means, also, that the Syrian forces are behaving as a real occupying force in Lebanon and the world should deal with the problem of Lebanon from this point, not to go around the table but to hit the table, to hit the target. So, (?in this case) the world should understand that the authority, the legitimate authority is controlled by the Syrians and is not able to speak in the name of Lebanon. That is what we used to explain to the world a long time ago, but the world did not try to listen to us and understand.

Now you have the envoy of the biggest and strongest country in the world and he is [words indistinct]. So do not tell me in the future that you are [words indistinct] the legitimate authority. There is no legitimate authority. There are people, Lebanese people. You have to say we are [word indistinct] to help the Lebanese people, the Lebanese who are working for Lebanon, for the independence of Lebanon, for the unity of Lebanon, and they are these people.

Also, there is a fact that also appeared, that the Syrians decided, when they felt themselves isolated from the Arab world and the Arabic countries, to do what they are now doing in Lebanon against the eastern part of Beirut, against Zahlah, and in the south-- they are pushing their agents the terrorists to increase the tension in the south against us. What was the result? Until now, these actions resulted in many killed and much destruction, too much destruction and damage too in the houses and property.

[Words indistinct] to ask you to bring the attention of the (?states) to intervene again, and intervene with Saudi Arabia to pay the Syrians money and, if it is possible, to bring back other Arabic countries to communicate and cooperate with the Syrians. Syria will claim that it is the head of the Arab world so we see that the main problem is the problem of the money, and I am sure that once Saudi Arabia is prepared to pay back the Syrians and to pay for their presence in Lebanon, I am sure they will withdraw from Sannin and from around Zahlah and that they will also withdraw their missiles from Lebanon.

For this I officially ask those responsible and the leader of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to pay the Syrians in order to stop its actions and massacres against the Christians in Lebanon, and to pay much more than they are asking for in one quarter and to ask the Syrian forces to withdraw from our Lebanon. I guarantee that we Lebanese are ready [words indistinct]. And by this action we solve the problem of Lebanon. We stop the massacre and we save a lot of Lebanese lives. And Lebanon will again become a part of the free countries and a member of the United Nations--an active member.

There is another problem, another subject. Yesterday I heard and I read in some newspapers that the Chief of Staff Victor Khuri [title as heard] signed an order to send 500 soldiers to the south. I wonder how the Lebanese people can still respect the chief of staff and the so-called legitimate authority when the major parts of Lebanon are under occupation, and they are suffering, and the so-called responsible ones only care about sending troops to the south within the ranks of UNIFIL. What for? If they have enough soldiers, why aren't they deploying them around Zahlah and in Beirut, the capital, and assure real sovereignty, real Lebanese sovereignty. Maybe somebody will say there is some opposition from the so-called Lebanese National Movement to deploy the Lebanese Army in the capital or in any other place in Lebanon--only in the south. So I answer with another question. Why is it acceptable for this army to be in the south and not in the capital? Why?

So, I ask General Callaghan to really help Lebanon and convince the legitimate authority to deploy its army where it is needed. Its army should be deployed where it should be--in the capital, and around the capital, and then expand its deployment, little by little, until it reaches the south. And in this case all the Lebanese soldiers are welcome, and we are ready to let them come and be deployed inside our villages, not just beside UN areas.

We are for Lebanon; we are for real Lebanese sovereignty; we are for the deployment of the Lebanese Army, but in the right way, in a way that it will be useful and serve the interests of and benefit Lebanon. Thank you very much.

NO 'TANGIBLE RESULT' SEEN FROM HABIB MISSION

JN161258 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Riyadh--U.S. Envoy Philip Habib will arrive in Riyadh today in the course of his current mission in the area. Habib left Tel Aviv early this morning without making any statement on the results of his talks with the Zionist officials. Reports say that Habib's mission has not achieved any tangible result so far. In a dispatch from occupied Palestine, REUTER says the chances of a diplomatic solution to the present crisis have greatly diminished.

AFP Cites AL-BA'TH

NC171544 Paris AFP in English 1735 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 17 May (AFP)--The official Syrian newspaper AL-BA'TH described the mission of President Ronald Reagan's special Middle East emissary Philip Habib as "part of the offensive mounted by the United States against the Arab world." The comment was published on the eve of Mr Habib's scheduled arrival here on his third visit. He is seeking a formula for settling the Israeli-Syrian dispute over Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH, the newspaper of the ruling Ba'th Party, insisted that Syria would defend its rights and dismissed Mr Habib's efforts as "gaining time to allow Israeli-U.S.-Egyptian agreements to be reached."

'OFFICIAL SOURCE' DENIES AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL

JN161905 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] An official source has stated the following:

The Israeli enemy's circles and some U.S. sources are disseminating news that an implicit agreement has been reached between Syria and the Israeli enemy according to which red lines have been defined in Lebanon that the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] cannot trespass upon and defining the kind of weapon that these forces can use Lebanese territory.

The Syrian Government categorically rules out these allegations and confirms that there has not been any direct or indirect, implicit or explicit, agreement between Syria and the Israeli enemy. What further proves the falsehood of these allegations are the scores of air and land clashes between our forces and the enemy's forces, particularly clashes between our air force and the enemy's warplanes in Lebanese airspace, both in the north and in the south.

We have sacrificed a number of martyr pilots while defending the Arabism of the Lebanese airspace and our Lebanese and Palestinian brothers who have been subjected to brutal massacres.

The objective of these allegations is to justify Israeli aggression on Lebanon's sovereignty, to interfere with Lebanon's internal affairs, to hinder the march of Lebanese national accord, to attack the ADF and to impose Israeli supremacy on Lebanon. While denying these allegations, the Syrian Government announces that these allegations constitute a link in the chain of plotting which is led by world Zionism, and the government stresses its adherence to its consistent policy of resisting and repulsing aggression with all the possible and available means.

PRESIDENT REITERATES FIRM STAND ON LEBANON

JN172006 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] At 1800 today His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received the members of the Permanent Secretariat of the African and Asian Writers Union on the conclusion of the Permanent Secretariat's meetings in Damascus.

At the beginning of the meeting (Sirkhar Azimov) spoke on behalf of the Permanent Secretariat members and explained the meetings of the Permanent Secretariat in Damascus and some of its decisions, including the unanimous election of 'Ali 'Uqlah 'Ursan, chairman of the Syrian Writers Union, as assistant secretary general of the African and Asian Writers Union. (Azimov) spoke about the importance of the Permanent Secretariat's meeting in Damascus. He also asserted Syria's prominent role in the region and the world and its position as the center of contemporary progressive Arab thinking. He said that all progressive Arab scholars, headed by Palestinian scholars, link their aspirations and ideas with Syria. He said that Soviet scholars highly appreciate this role. He added that African and Asian scholars attach importance to the championing of the just Arab cause and the Palestinian people's issue. The Permanent Secretariat made a decision to bolster the Arab people's liberation struggle. Progressive Asian and African scholars will remain loyal allies in this struggle.

His excellency the president expressed happiness at meeting the members of the Permanent Secretariat, who represent writers and men of letters committed to the issues of liberty and progress in the world. He asserted that this commitment is a trait that should be enjoyed by every man of letters.

His excellency the president spoke about the conflict between the forces of progress and liberty on one hand and the forces of imperialism and exploitation on the other. He also spoke about the sacrifices and strong will and determination required by the struggle of peoples in this conflict. He underlined that the peoples will inevitably triumph, despite the apparent inequality of potential, because peoples are owners of rights, will and determination.

The president explained the current situation in the Arab region, which is characterized by the escalation of the Zionist-imperialist onslaught against Syria, the Palestinian resistance and the Arab progressive forces. He explained that the aim of this onslaught is to fully liquidate the Palestinian issue as an issue which not only symbolizes the liberation of land but also liberty and progress in the region. His excellency the president clarified that our nation's enemies and their allies in the region think that the destruction of Syria, as a regime and a stand, will enable them to crush the Arab issue and subjugate the Arab nation. They began with an internal conspiracy when they instigated the agent Muslim Brotherhood Organization, which is known for its agency to colonialism and for its hostility to the nationalist Arab forces which resist colonialism.

After our masses and popular organizations crushed this conspiracy, we knew that the forces of imperialism and Zionism would resort to external aggression. This is what is currently happening.

His excellency the president explained the recent developments in Lebanon in which Israel deliberately interfered in Arab Lebanon to impede the national accord toward which Lebanon was heading. It also interfered with the Arab Deterrent Forces which are legitimately present in Lebanon.

His excellency the president said: We have always worked for and sought Lebanon's security, unity and Arabism. While the work was in progress in its last stage to achieve Lebanese national accord on national bases, the agents of Israel and U.S. imperialism in Lebanon brought the situation to a head. When they were unable to carry out their design to explode the situation, Israel intervened. This intervention came at a time when there was no fighting in Lebanon and when the contacts to achieve national accord had begun to augur success. Israel's intervention was to prevent accord and escalate the situation. When we in Syria began, within minimal and purely defensive bounds, to strengthen our defense and follow up at the same time the process of accord, the Zionist and colonialist propaganda machines raised a loud clamor and waged a large-scale campaign against us.

His excellency the president asserted: We will resist any attempt by Israel to intervene in the affairs of fraternal Lebanon. We will strongly resist any attempt by Israel to commit aggression.

He said: We do not doubt that the writers of Asia and Africa, all progressive writers and all other progressive forces in the world will support us in our battle, which is a long one.

Thanking the writers of Asia and Africa, his excellency the president said: Syria is proud of any support for it. The future will definitely be for justice and peoples who are struggling for their rights and freedom. We in Syria support the struggle of all peoples which are suffering from injustice and suppression anywhere in the world. We consider any triumph scored by any people against the forces of exploitation to be a triumph for all peoples.

At the end of the meeting 'Ali 'Uqlah 'Ursan spoke on behalf of the Permanent Secretariat, expressing its members' pride in this meeting and the instructions given by President Hafiz al-Asad, who represents the peak of struggle against the forces of colonialism, imperialism and Zionism.

On behalf of the Permanent Secretariat, he reiterated the support of the writers of Africa and Asia for the Arab people's struggle and Syria's steadfastness. He also reaffirmed their support for rights and justice in this region and the entire world, always seeking to expose and fight against all forms of aggression and exploitation.

MILITARY SPOKESMAN DENIES 14 MAY DOWNING OF MIG

JN162126 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2120 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Damascus--Citing Western sources in Lebanon, the enemy radio has claimed that a Syrian MIG plane was hit over Lebanon the day before yesterday. The Syrian military spokesman has stressed that this report is completely untrue and categorically baseless.

PRESIDENT MEETS LEBANON NATIONAL MOVEMENT LEADER

JN171640 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] At 1230 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement. A comprehensive review was made of the situation in the region and the developments in Lebanon, including Israeli provocative acts and threats.

Muhsin Ibrahim stressed the Lebanese National Movement's absolute support for any measure adopted by Syria in defense of Lebanon and the Arab nation's dignity. He stressed the Lebanese National Movement's mobilization of its potential in order to stand in the face of any aggression by Israel and its allies.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES SAUDI ENVOY, KING'S MESSAGE

JN171926 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] At 1930 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, assistant commander of the Saudi National Guard, who conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri arrived in Damascus this evening. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for presidential affairs, and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Damascus.

PARTY OFFICIAL RECEIVES CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

JN162132 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at noon today received Brother 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Arab People's Conference, and heads of the delegations which took part in the meetings of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference and the International Secretariat for Solidarity With the Arab People. Brother al-Hamidi outlined the results and the resolutions of the Permanent Secretariat and the International Secretariat.

Comrade al-Ahmar then explained the contemporary situation in Lebanon and in the region as a whole as well as the dimensions of the new U.S.-Zionist plot directed against Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian people. Comrade al-Ahmar said: After the failure of the Muslim Brotherhood gangs within Syria, the plotters resorted to a qualitative development of their designs, attempting to explode the situation in Lebanon and to strike against the Lebanese National Movement, the Palestinian resistance and the Arab Deterrent Forces by using the Phalangist gangs and the other agent, isolationist and reactionary forces.

Comrade al-Ahmar pointed out that Syria, stemming from its national principles and continued struggle in defense of the Arab nation, was able to foil this conspiratorial escalation of the situation. This Syrian stand represents the Arab people's conscience, particularly since the United States and Israel are seeking to Zionize Lebanon and to liquidate the Palestinian resistance.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed that Syria is determined to face the aggression and stand steadfastly in the face of the new designs. He added that the uproar which was fabricated by Tel Aviv, Washington and their agents represent a psychological war and part of a potential aggression which aims at striking at Arab steadfastness powers, imposing U.S. supremacy on the region and liquidating the Palestinian cause.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed that Syria is not standing by itself in the face of this aggression, but is backed by the Arab nation's masses, the Arab militant forces and all progressive and peace-loving forces in the world, led by the friendly Soviet Union. He added that our people are being threatened by aggression and war because they are defending their rights. The world should therefore become acquainted with the aggressive objectives of the Israeli-U.S. design.

U.S. WARSHIPS SAID TO CONTINUE 'PROVOCATIONS'

JN161251 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] U.S. warships continue their provocations to increase tension in the area and to give the green light to Israel and the isolationist forces to undermine current efforts to achieve national accord in Lebanon.

Reports say that orders were issued yesterday to the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence to remain in the eastern Mediterranean and that the U.S. Navy had informed the dependents of the crew that the aircraft carrier would not return to its Norfolk base on schedule.

Yesterday's reports said that U.S. warships were seen close to the Lebanese shore. The U.S. Defense Department has also confirmed that the aircraft carrier Forrestal has left Naples for the eastern Mediterranean on an unidentified mission.

It is noteworthy that the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence had passed through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean with the approval of the Egyptian regime.

SYRIA READY TO PAY ANY PRICE FOR 'PAN-ARAB STAND'

JN160721 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 May 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "It Will Be Impossible To Harm Syria From the Outside Too," TISHRIN says: While we are in agreement that Begin, the enemy prime minister, is now like a wolf who is suffering from political and military wounds as a result of his rashness and his stupidity, which render him incapable of assessing the consequences and the complications, we know that what is done is done, that history will not go back and that the Syrian missiles, which support the Syrian forces operating within the framework of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, are an organic part of the military and defensive requirements of any Syrian military unit or presence. If we want to deal with this matter, we must proceed from this fact, from the stage of the post-missiles presence, from the treatment of the cause and not the effect, and from the treatment of the motive and not the pretext.

The principle cause is the Zionist policy of aggression, the intransigence practiced by Begin as if he possesses a natural and legitimate right to tame the Arab nation, to violate its rights and defeat it, while no one must possess the right to reject or confront this Zionist belligerency. Even the right of self-defense, which is acknowledged by all natural and divine laws, must be granted with restrictions--according to Zionist Begin's norms--in order to conform with the Zionist interest and in such a manner so no harm will come to the freedom of the Zionist belligerency.

We realize that Begin, who is now besieged, is not searching for pretexts to carry out an aggression against Syria. The pretext of the missiles is as empty as all previous pretexts with which the Zionist entity has justified its successive aggressions and many wars against the Arabs. The only reason, then, is Syria's principled stands, its rejection and confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist hegemony over the Arabs and its foiling of the Camp David course. The Zionist hatred against Syria stems from these stands because Syria remained the only bastion which is practicing steadfastness and confrontation against this hegemony and because Syria has succeeded in foiling the U.S. policy in the area.

The paper adds: The feverish desire to take revenge on Syria has not begun with the so-called missiles issue. It began with the attempt to harm Syria from the inside. The pretext of the missiles is one of the manifestations of the hatred against Syria, a pretext used in the hope that Syria can be harmed from the outside after it has been proved that it could not be harmed from the inside. Those who cannot be harmed from the inside cannot be harmed from the outside as well. Perhaps the United States and Israel have realized this fact after the series of attempts they have carried out in this direction. Perhaps they also realize that their attempt to harm Syria from the outside will have no better chance this time as well. The aggression against steadfast Syria will be a costly one.

TISHRIN says: Despite the fact that Syria does not take into consideration the losses or gains when dealing with the great pan-Arab issues and when the Arab nation's supreme interests and the future of the Arab masses are concerned--because the Arab nation's dignity and pride and above all the consequences and eventualities which Syria might face--despite all this, Syria is ready to pay any price brought about by this pan-Arab stand and is capable of defending its rights and the honor of its Arab nation. Syria will not lack any of the requisites for a successful confrontation and for burning the hands of the aggressors who are trying to play havoc with our pan-Arab security.

Syria is a qualitative force on the strategic, military, popular and pan-Arab levels. It is not only defending Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian people, but is also defending the destiny of a nation which the United States and Israel want to humiliate and usurp its rights and its national will. By adopting the present stand, Syria embodies the issue of the human struggle between aggression and right, between evil and good and between the honorable struggle and the oppressive challenge to the people's rights. By adopting this great decision which expresses the will of a nation, Syria cannot and will not conclude a truce or bargain over the principle of this decision.

The paper concludes: Neutrality here is rejected and condemned because it favors the enemy and serves his aggression. Silence too is a cowardly neutrality. The battle is clear in its objectives and forces and requires a crystal-clear view of the stands and the affiliation. The stand on Syria and its steadfastness will be the only determining factor. Either one is in the trench of imperialism and Zionism or in the trench of Arab steadfastness.

Syria knows its stands very well and is also aware of the huge popular potentials from which it derives its strength. Syria will continue as always in not bargaining over our national rights regardless of the costs and the results. Syria will prove that it is up to the level of the big challenge.

ISRAELI 'SECURITY RIGHTS' IN LEBANON REJECTED

JN161454 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. newspapers speak of pressure against Menachem Begin in Israel to carry out his threats against Syria. News agencies also speak of criticism inside Israel of the adventurous course expressed in Menachem Begin's statements and stands.

Two days ago U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig spoke of his belief that time is really running out and that the mission of U.S. Envoy Philip Habib is a risk with very little chance of success. He described the situation as extremely sensitive and fraught with the most dangerous of possibilities. Although Haig put in a word of optimism with these statements, it did not hide the real meaning of his statements.

From the U.S. and Israeli statements and the differences which are beginning to surface in Israel, it becomes apparent that the serious situation provoked by Israel in the area is not over yet, and that all the serious possibilities stemming from it still stand. It is also apparent that the ruling circles in Israel are still, by virtue of their adventurous and aggressive nature, the role entrusted to Israel in the comprehensive U.S.-imperialist policy, the special expansionist, aggressive Zionist interests and the circumstances of the general parliamentary elections in Israel, putting the choice of a large- or small-scale aggression at the forefront of their considerations.

Even though the rulers of Israel have waged attacks and wars in the past, alleging that the existence of Israel was threatened and that the Arabs wanted to destroy Israel, this fraudulent card is currently out of circulation. It is like forged currency, which is rejected by world public opinion. Even inside Israel itself some voices are being raised to warn Menachem Begin against the dangers of waging war against Syria.

It is clear today to the whole world that the rulers of Israel are the ones who have artificially provoked the crisis, escalated the tension, threatened aggression and created a serious situation which is liable to explode at any time, affecting international relations and threatening complications in peace and security outside the Middle East as well.

Although the rulers of Israel have tried and are trying to hide the real motives for their escalation of tension and spreading of clouds of war over the area by talking of a Syrian missile crisis in Lebanon, this very talk condemns them, the nature of their aggressive entity and their role, which is opposed to national liberation movements. This talk also exposes those supporting Israel and anticipating gain from its pressures and threats and, perhaps, its aggression.

The missiles of which the rulers of Israel speak are purely defensive missiles. This is an issue against which no one can argue or cast doubts. Since the missiles are a defensive weapon, the only one to be damaged by them and to consider them as a threat is the one who intends aggression. The missiles are on Lebanese land. Lebanon, as is well known, is an independent state, not an extension of Israel, an Israeli colony or subject to Israeli guardianship. Its land, waters and airspace are taboo to Israeli planes and forces, in accordance with international law. The Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] are the forces of Lebanese legitimacy and are present in Lebanon in accordance with a Lebanese and Arab decision and with international consent. Any Israeli attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Lebanon is rejected and denounced. Similarly, the Israeli attempt to consider Lebanon as an extension of Israeli security is rejected and denounced.

The theory of Israeli security advanced by Menahem Begin is serious. Not even Hitler dared declare it. It has overstepped the theory declared by the Labor Party governments and adopted by Begin's government when it first took over. While the first [Labor Party] theory called for the deployment of Israeli forces on allegedly defensive lines constituting natural barriers in the areas occupied by Israel, Begin's new theory calls for considering Lebanese airspace, territories and water as a defensive area for Israel. This is a serious precedent in international relations. It must be fought with all means and rejected. The hands which try to impose it must be paralyzed.

Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has left no room for doubt that it rejects any Israeli attempts to interfere in Lebanese affairs and that it vehemently rejects any attempts to declare that Israel has security rights within the framework of a Lebanese territorial policy. Syria also refuses to discuss the means which it forces in Lebanon are entitled or not entitled to have and use. Recent experience ought to have revealed to the rulers of Israel and the United States that Syria is not afraid of threats, does not retreat under pressure, does not accept warnings and does not interact from a position of weakness. Syria is prepared to take all the consequences of its insistence on defending Arab rights, struggling to liberate the occupied Arab land and guaranteeing the national rights of the Palestinian people.

ARAB NATIONALIST RESURGENCE SAID RALLYING TO SYRIA

JN171537 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The features of Arab nationalist resurgence are currently becoming integrated in the Arab arena. This Arab nationalist resurgence is rallying around Syria in high appreciation of its firm policy against Zionist aggressiveness. There is no doubt that the signs of the Arab nationalist resurgence, which is now concentrated around Syria's nationalist course, brings to mind the Arab nationalist resurgence which accompanied and followed the Suez battle in 1956, particularly since both have in common the disappointment of the illusions of imperialism and the Zionists about the possibility of (?controlling) the Arab country which confronts the aggression of imperialism. The implications of large-scale pan-Arab popular and even official rallying around the direct line of a steadfast, confronting country leads to the creation of a revolutionary situation in the pan-Arab arena, the mere creation of which the imperialists and Zionists do not want to think about, as they did not want to think about the revolutionary situation which came into being following the aggressive attack on Suez in 1956. The features of such a national resurgence are now appearing around Syria and its leader-struggler, President Hafiz al-Asad.

For this very reason a great part of the efforts of the forces opposed to the Arab nation is being concentrated at present to prevent the creation of a revolutionary situation in the region for fear of the dangers contained in such a situation, which are well known to everyone.

It became clear yesterday that the main effort of the forces opposed to the Arab nation pivots on the distortion of Syria's stand, which is the main center of the nationalist Arab resurgence, surrounding its stand with doubts.

Within the context of this antagonistic course, Joseph Sisco, the assistant of the former U.S. State Department overseer, that is, Kissinger's assistant, came up with a slander against Syria. By means of his slander he wanted to say that Syria has two policies: a declared policy and a covert policy. This statement aimed at accusing Syria before world public opinion of being the aggressor against Israel because Syria, according to him, had violated an understanding with Israel to arm its forces in Lebanon, working as part of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF], with specified weapons which it would not exceed. The alleged understanding also specified that these forces would not exceed certain lines.

Our people in this country and in the greater Arab homeland know as does the whole world, that Sisco's allegations lack honesty and harmony at the same time. Our people and all those concerned with the subjects put forth by Sisco are well aware of the independence of Syrian national decisions and that the red lines, which Syria allegedly observed at one time and has now violated, are merely illusory mirages, which Sisco misunderstood, misrepresented and tried to exploit to enhance the campaign to distort Syria's stand.

Syria now, as at any time in the past, is the one to determine for itself a response in the interests of the Arab people. Syria does so at a time which suits it alone and determines for the forces opposed to the nation the lines beyond which the legs of all those who cross them will be amputated. Syria does so based on the supreme pan-Arab strategy interest of the Arabs by which Syria is inspired as it prepares itself to rise, on behalf of the Arabs--all the Arabs--to the task of breaking the aggressive arm of imperialism against the Arab nation.

Our people are aware of the malicious intent of Sisco and the group of slanderers and liars against Syria. The task of harming Syria now is an urgent one for the circles opposed to the Arabs. It is certain that achieving as difficult a task as this requires the achievement of a series of marginal tasks, the most prominent of which is the distortion of Syria's stand.

It is not difficult for an observer to discover the common factor between the statements of Sisco and the imperialist distortion group and all its instruments and media organs. They all base themselves on the concept that the United States is all-powerful over the destinies of the peoples that Washington is the one to determine things and that the forces of national liberation have no choice but to move in the margins which the United States made available.

In the past they said that the United States was the one to withdraw from Vietnam to justify its contemptible defeat there. They also said that the United States withdrew its support for the shah of Iran out of its own choice resulting in his downfall. They said this to preserve the image of an omnipotent United States. They are now saying that the United States was the one to delineate red lines for Syria in Lebanon. Our people, however, knowing that the United States was defeated in Vietnam and Iran and is now being defeated in Syria, wholeheartedly tell the United States and the Zionists that Syria's policy was, is and will remain faithful to the supreme strategic pan-Arab interests, enhanced by a mass, pan-Arab nationalist tendency to repulse the imperialist, Zionist hegemony on parts of the Arab nation.

Syria is not alone. The forms of support and aid expressed by Arab leaders and the Arab political and union organizations affirm that Syria cannot be attacked in isolation. This fact is more effectively confirmed to those both far and near by the international position which Syria enjoys with all the peace-loving countries and forces, especially the countries of the socialist bloc, led by the Soviet Union, the loyal friend of the struggle of peoples against imperialism.

'RED LINES' HAVE NOT BEEN, WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

JN170641 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 May 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Red Lines and the Imaginary Lines" TISHRIN says: The enemies of Syria and the Arab nation found no other means to counter the principles and courageous stands that Syria adopted in the face of the challenges, the provocations and the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] but to disseminate lies and fabrications which are intended to have the Arab citizen doubt Syria's stands and make him believe that Syria practices a dual policy on the issue of confrontation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people.

During the past days imperialist U.S. and Israeli sources have disseminated allegations that there is a secret agreement between Israel and Syria about red lines in Lebanon and about the quality, type of weapon and task of the ADF in Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: Joseph Sisco, former assistant Secretary of State has contributed to the dissemination of these lies, he who participated with his master Henry Kissinger in implementing the conspiracy that removed As-Sadat's regime from the Arab fold. The statement of the official Syrian spokesman, who refuted the imperialist U.S. and Zionist allegations, however, has exposed the psychological warfare against Syria and has reiterated that Syrian foreign policy, under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, is a clear policy and not a double-faced one and that it is a policy which tells the Arab citizen and international public opinion exactly what it tells the envoys and representatives of the countries in diplomatic arenas and circles.

Not once did the documents, facts and secrets which were published after being kept secret, contradict what President al-Asad told the masses and what he stated in his speeches and statements. Even the memoirs that Moshe Dayan published on his rounds of secret talks admitted that Syria has adopted intransigent positions--that is, pan-Arab and nationalist positions--which reject capitulation in the name of peace and subservience to imperialism which takes place under the slogan of cooperation.

The paper adds: After the Syrian official spokesman's statement, the Arab citizens realize that there are no red lines that Syria has accepted and that all that there is are imaginary lines after which the Israeli enemy is panting. Syria has rejected and continues to reject capitulation and subservience. Syria has rejected and continues to reject bargaining on the pan-Arab cause. Syria has refused to withdraw under threats and pressures.

Syria is now being exposed to the threat of aggression not because it has accepted red lines, but because it has refused to recognize the right of the imperialist and Zionist enemy to any tutelage and influence in the area. The dissemination of lies about the imaginary red lines not only constitutes a part of the psychological warfare against Syria and the Arab masses, but is intended to falsify stands, justify the Israeli aggression and provide Israel with the excuse to claim that it has the right to consider Lebanese air-space, territory and waters as vital space for its security. These lies are also intended to make Israel appear as if it is not the aggressor against the Lebanese state, the Lebanese and Palestinian people and against the ADF. These lies are also intended to make Syria appear as if it is the party which violates agreements, retracts its promises, fabricates crises and shoulders the responsibility for the serious current situation in the region.

TISHRIN concludes: All the cheap attempts, however, cannot alter the facts, particularly the fact that Syria has neither relinquished any Arab right or territory nor has conceded to the imperialist and Zionist enemy the right of hegemony over the region or influence in any part of the Arab homeland, whether in Lebanon or elsewhere.

The facts, which are known by everyone, are that Israel is the one which is occupying Arab territories and denying the Palestinian Arab people their legitimate rights. It is the one which has carried out and continues to carry out the aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people and is threatening to carry out new aggressions.

DAMASCUS NOTES ADVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN LEBANON

JN170623 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 0445 GMT on 17 May carries the following press headlines, among others, without further elaboration: "Moscow Supports Syrian Measures and Al-Wazzan Expresses Solidarity With Syria" and "Habib Arrived in Saudi Arabia and U.S. Citizens Leave Lebanon on State Department Advice."

PAN-ARAB BATTLE DEFINED; ARAB SUPPORT URGED

JN180728 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 May 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Our Nation Is Being Tested" TISHRIN says: Many used to accuse Syria of being overly optimistic for confidently maintaining that our nation can confront the challenges and dangers and saying that no force on earth can comprehend the links of national brotherhood among the sons of the one Arab nation. Many believed this to be merely Ba'thist enthusiasm. Struggler Hafiz al-Asad continued to maintain confidence in the future and in the inevitable triumph of our nation over its enemies despite all the tribulations, setbacks and the high treason committed by treacherous As-Sadat and his ilk.

TISHRIN adds: We believe that now no one can any longer voice such viewpoints, particularly after the proud Syrian stand has polarized the present huge support and solidarity. This sincere and noble polarization around the Syrian stand has not surprised Syria. On the contrary, it was the wager that it won and the weapon which it gained. The solidarity of the Arab masses with Syria is and will continue to be the major weapon on which Syria has and will continue to rely in all its battles because Syria's battles have and will continue to remain Arab battles.

The paper stresses that since it obtained its independence with sacrifices, blood and sweat, Syria has never waged a single regional battle and never placed any interest above the pan-Arab interest. Syria's position in the Arab world has been gained by it and has not been granted to it. Syria has won this position by its sacrifices and by its relentless efforts, struggle and resolute determination to achieve the Arab nation's objectives. The strong and comprehensive Arab stand has proved once again that Damascus is the Arab nation's throbbing heart, its live conscience, sword, voice and its remaining stronghold.

TISHRIN adds: Though this great stand of solidarity is normal and natural, it is also a subject of pride and happiness for every Syrian Arab because every citizen in this militant and steadfast country considers himself, before anything else, an Arab who defends every inch of Arab territory and does not hesitate to offer himself for any battle anywhere.

The Syrians, through their stands and sacrifices, have always supported their brothers in Palestine, Algeria and in any country that waged battle or raised the banner of a pan-Arab battle. The fraternal Syrian initiative will continue to keep Lebanon independent and Arab and protect its people and security. Syria's battle will also continue against Israel, its greed for expansion and its provocative threats.

Syria has shouldered alone, on behalf of all the Arabs, the responsibility in Lebanon to maintain it as a united Arab country. Syria, alone, is confronting the schemes of Zionists and the conspiracies of their allies and their agents. Syria, alone, continues to raise the banner of Arab rights and to defend Arab honor and dignity. The paper adds: We say alone but not lonely. Syria has never been and never will be lonely, in any battle, stand or measure. The secret of Syria's strength, its steadfastness and its heroic confrontation resides in the Arab masses, who have always been concerned about and have always looked toward Damascus. The Arab masses have always extended their hands to sincere and loyal Damascus.

The big pan-Arab battle that Syria is now waging in defense of right and Arab dignity is still at its beginning. Although the battle has begun with the provocative threats of the enemy, and his illegitimate and impudent demands, it is, according to the enemy's schemes and calculations, not over the issue of missiles and red lines but a battle for the liquidation of what remains of the Arab positions of steadfastness and confrontation, a battle whose objectives are to complete the liquidation of the Arab cause and to allow Israel to expand at the expense of Lebanese territory. They are after Syria's head and want to bury the Palestinian revolution alive and partition Lebanon. As long as Syria's head continues to be unattainable, these two objectives will be impossible to achieve.

That is why pan-Arab responsibility dictates that all Arabs join the battle with Syria, whose leadership--represented by Al-Asad--has given it the political and military capability to wage any battle imposed on it and to move in any field with effectiveness and confidence. Syria's Al-Asad has not built this strength merely to protect its borders or regain its occupied territory. Syria has become strong because the nation's struggle and cause are great and because the enemies of the nation are strong and fierce. The pan-Arab issue dictates that all Arabs strengthen Syria in all fields. There is no doubt that the recent Arab support constitutes moral and political support for the declared pan-Arab stand adopted by Damascus. This stand has also many other aspects which the Arabs must move to strengthen and consolidate.

Our nation is now facing a serious and important test and the results of this decisive test will determine to a large extent the course and the future of the Arab nation and the region.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR LEADERSHIP

JN170054 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2140 GMT 16 May 81

[Excerpts] Damascus--The People's Assembly has reiterated that the Syrian people are rallying around and supporting the wise and brave leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in the face of the U.S.-Zionist challenges. The assembly added that the Syrian people are ready to offer sacrifices and martyrs. It asserted the Syrian people's absolute support for the daring pan-Arab stands in confronting the Zionist provocations and their determination to wage the battle in defense of the Arab nation's honor and dignity.

The People's Assembly held the first meeting of its 12th session at 1800 today under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker Mahmud Hadid. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Deputy Prime Minister for Services Affairs Walid Hamdun, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah and the ministers attended.

Touching on the crucial stage facing Syria in particular and the Arab nation in general, a number of assembly members asserted that the United States and Israel are aware of the consequences of any adventure they might carry out. Noting that Israel tried its luck during the October war when the brunt of Israeli efforts was directed against the Syrian front, the members asserted that Syria is fully aware of its position and of the people's great energies from which Syria derives its force and support. The members said that Syria will be the stronghold for the Arab nation and will not bargain over a pan-Arab right irrespective of the pressures and challenges. They sent greetings to leader President Hafiz al-Asad, asserting that the people will strongly and solidly support him. They also asserted that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is a pan-Arab commitment and a reply to all the current challenges.

UNION LEADER CALLS FOR ARMS, OTHER AID TO SYRIA

JN181323 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] Brother Humayyid Jallud, president of the International Confederation of the Arab Trade Unions has stressed the need for offering immediate military, material and human support for Arab Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement in order to bolster the steadfastness of Arab Syria, the Arab bastion of steadfastness.

This came in a statement by Brother Jallud to the SANA correspondent prior his departure from Damascus for Tripoli at noon today at the head of the delegation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference. He is beginning a tour that will include a visit to the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states and meetings with these states' leaders.

Brother Jallud said that during this tour, a memorandum will be submitted to the leaders of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states that will include the resolutions of the conference of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, the Arab masses' opinions and the requisites of the stage of U.S. imperialist and revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

Brother Jallud added that the battle waged by Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement constitutes defense of the entire Arab nation's dignity and honor. He pointed out that this battle is one of existence or nonexistence and of seeking to liquidate the steadfastness of Syria, the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement, as well as all national Arab forces and Arab presence.

Concluding his statement, Brother Jallud called on the steadfastness and confrontation states, at this particular stage, to meet as soon as possible in order to begin actual implementation of the unified military command and the other institutions of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

The delegation comprises Comrade 'Izz ad-Din Nasir, member of the Regional Command and head of the General Federation of the Workers Unions; Fathi ar-Raghib, head of the Federation of the Palestinian Workers; Hasib 'Abd al-Jawad, vice president of the Federation of Lebanese Workers Union; 'Umar ad-Dawudi, PLO representative; and Sa'id 'Abd al-Qadir (Thabit), member of the PFLO.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM CASTRO

JN161134 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro. In the message Castro expressed deep concern over the serious situation in the Middle East due to Israel's aggressive policy. President Castro reiterated Cuba's support--people, party and government--for the Syrian people and its firm solidarity with the Arab countries in facing the Israeli threats which are mainly aimed against Syria's solid stand, the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist and progressive movement.

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER VOICES FULL SUPPORT

JN162328 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2322 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Damascus--Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal last night [16 May] phoned 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and asserted Saudi Arabia's support for Syria's steadfastness in confronting the Israeli provocations and challenges. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also asserted Saudi Arabia's absolute support for Syria, the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon and Syria's steadfast stand in defense of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and unity--land and people.

CABINET DISCUSSES LEBANESE MISSILE CRISIS

Tzipori on Diplomatic Moves

TA171042 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1040 GMT 17 May 81

[From the Red Telephone Program]

[Text] The Cabinet meeting ended in Jerusalem a few minutes ago. Our political correspondent Gad Becker reports that in the course of the meeting sharp criticism was leveled at the Alignment's conduct regarding the Lebanese crisis. Our correspondent further reports that at this stage Israel continues to allow time for the diplomatic moves on the Lebanese crisis.

Upon emerging from the meeting Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said that as long as there is even a slim chance that the political moves will succeed, this chance will be exhausted, this hope still exists.

Begin: No Time Limit Set

TA171223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] The Israeli Cabinet has unanimously agreed to give American Envoy Philip Habib more time to seek a peaceful solution to the missile crisis. Prime Minister Begin says that Habib had requested the extension, which Begin recommended be approved by the Cabinet.

Speaking after today's session, Begin said he had received a message that Habib will probably spend today in Saudi Arabia and then travel on to Damascus before returning to Israel on Monday night or Tuesday morning at the latest. But the prime minister also said that this timetable is still uncertain. Israel had not set any time limit, but Begin told reporters the question still remains how to restore the status quo ante in Lebanon. The prime minister still hoped that war with Syria could be averted. But Begin told reporter David Essing that as of his last meeting with Habib on Friday [15 May], he could not say one word about progress. The prime minister went on to say it was only natural for the U.S. to send its fleet closer to the area in response to the greater Soviet naval presence.

Our reporter adds that Cabinet ministers sharply criticized Alignment spokesmen for the attacks on government policy during the crisis. The minister said the Alignment was causing demoralization and was guilty of a lack of national responsibility.

Further Begin Remarks

TA171542 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 May 81

[Political correspondent Gad Becker report--live]

[Excerpt] The prime minister said today that in his last meeting with Philip Habib on 15 May the U.S. envoy told him that U.S. Secretary of State Haig had instructed him to leave for Saudi Arabia. Habib asked Israel for another respite to continue his efforts.

[Begin Begin recording] I replied to Mr Habib that the Cabinet session would be held on 17 May and, therefore, I was not authorized to answer his request on Friday. On the other hand, after having listened to what he had to say, I told him that at the Cabinet session on Sunday I would recommend that his request should be approved. Indeed, I did so this morning at the meeting of our government. The Cabinet unanimously approved the answer I submitted to Mr Philip Habib, this is the situation now. As you see, we have given another chance and further time to exhaust the diplomatic process. [end recording]

Israel did not set a time limit to the political process conducted by Philip Habib. The Cabinet minister today said that the intention was to exhaust any sparkle of hope for a political solution.

[Begin recording] So long as we do not reach the final conclusion that the political process has been exhausted, we will continue to harbor hopes and we will continue to enable the exhaustion of this process because we do not want war. I assume that we will be wiser on Tuesday [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The prime minister emphasized that the State of Israel is not interested in war. We will do whatever is necessary for the security of the country. However, this does not necessarily mean war. First of all, we must hear what Philip Habib has to tell us following his talks in Saudi Arabia. There is lots of money there--Mr Begin said--and President al-Asad has so far been accustomed to receiving lots of money from the Saudis. That may have an impact on the issue--that is the word going around Jerusalem today. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that as late as last Friday there was no knowledge about any progress in the contacts with Syria.

SHAMIR CALLS FOR UNITY ON LEBANESE MISSILE CRISIS

TA171943 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 81

[Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir interviewed by Elimelekh Ram; time and place not given--videotaped]

[Text] [Shamir] For a long time we have been in confrontation with Syria on Lebanese soil. What is the confrontation about? Syria has been consistently aiming for full control over Lebanon, with the aid and cooperation of the terrorist organizations. If, heaven forbid, they gain this objective, Israel will be exposed to the gravest possible security danger and then, without any doubt, war will break out. A war between us and them in conditions difficult for us. Israel has for many years been making efforts to prevent this from happening, to prevent war, to prevent this danger from coming nearer to Israel's border. Israel has been doing this for all the years, going to the threshold without getting involved in a conflagration of a comprehensive war. Now the confrontation has reached a crisis, a grave point. We want, even today, to insist on what is our right and to avoid a comprehensive war.

[Question] And even today, after Philip Habib's mediation attempts which have apparently not gone well so far, are you still pinning any hope on political solution?

[Answer] I would like to hope. We must never despair. War, military actions, it does not even have to be a war, we can talk about military operations and they are not war....

[Question] That depends on the other side?

[Answer] Right. But we must only use this measure when there is no other, really no other possibility. But we must be prepared for that.

[Question] Mr Shamir, the government's policy on this issue did, it is true, win a majority of 51 votes against 39 in the Knesset, but there is no consensus on this issue. That is the impression. Does this situation not restrict the government in its actions, in its freedom of maneuvering?

[Answer] Look, first of all, I would say this: Substantially, there is a consensus, because if the main issue in the confrontation between us and Syria today is the problem of the missiles, there is general agreement about this. This was said by the leader of the opposition. We must exhaust the diplomatic process in order to remove the missiles. If that does not help, other measures must be taken. That, in fact, is the government's policy. Therefore there is a consensus. All the rest is dust from an interparty struggle, an undermining, a desire to slander an undermining, a desire to slander and undermine the government, taking advantage of this crisis....

[Question] Is it only the opposition that is doing this, sir? Is it only the opposition that is taking advantage of it?

[Answer] Of course. Who else? Look, we are in a confrontation today, with a cruel, hard enemy, extremist in his hatred of Israel and in his avowed desire to destroy it and we must, in this confrontation, act firmly, coolly, wisely and with a maximum of national unity. Israel is a very democratic country. The easiest thing here is to approach a minister, to approach the government, the prime minister, to propose, to advise. Why should this not happen today? The Syrian enemy is listening to this dispute and drawing encouragement from it. It is hardening his stand. It is increasing the danger of war. I call upon us all to stop the controversy, to unite. If there are matters to be clarified, we will clarify them inside.

PERES CALLS FOR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON LEBANON

TA172030 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 81

[Excerpts] Labor Party Chairman Mr Shim'on Peres this evening called on the prime minister to maintain a permanent system of consultation with the representatives of the Labor Party on the issue of the crisis in Lebanon. At a news conference in Tel Aviv this evening, Mr Peres also proposed completely severing the election campaign from the matter of Lebanon. As for the crisis itself, the political process must, first of all, be exhausted. Concerning the proposal to establish a permanent consultation system, Mr Peres said that among the first 10 candidates in the Alignment Knesset list were a former prime minister, a former defense minister and a former chief of staff. However, Mr Peres is not proposing that the election be postponed or that a national unity government be founded. Here are some of the Labor Party chairman's remarks at the news conference, as our party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al brought them to us:

[Begin videotape] [Peres] I want to take advantage of this opportunity, with the agreement of the Alignment, to appeal to the prime minister of Israel with the following proposals: 1) to completely sever the election campaign from the Lebanese issue, to extract the Lebanese issue from the election campaign; 2) to informally maintain a permanent consultation system about developments in Lebanon; 3) to propose that the political process should be exhausted to its end, with the government's being given full opportunity to work as required by political events in order to settle the issue in Lebanon, the issue Israel cannot accept: The presence of antiaircraft missiles in the Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon. The presence of such missiles is harming Israel's deterrent ability; it contradicts the reality created in the field over the last 5 years. I am doing this from a very deep feeling of responsibility for the development of a crisis which I hope we all, without exception, do not want to develop beyond its political dimensions. Thank you very much.

[Mish'al] Mr Peres, when you speak about consultations, how will this actually be done? Are you proposing that a new framework be established?

[Peres] No, I am not actually proposing a formal framework. I am proposing holding consultations on the highest plane, being scrupulous to keep the required discretion [last word in English] at each and every stage of possible future developments.

[Mish'al] Have you made this proposal to the prime minister, or is this the first time that you are proposing it?

[Peres] I am proposing it here for the first time because the debate over the issue of Lebanon is being conducted in the mass media. Last night I heard mutual recriminations. Today I heard the exchange of words over the mass media. I consider them to be harmful to the State of Israel. They are interfering in the political process and so I decided to make this appeal in public. [end videotape]

Our correspondent adds that if Mr Peres' proposal is accepted by the prime minister, the Alignment intends to propose that, within the framework of the team to deal with the crisis in Lebanon, the Alignment will be presented by Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, Hayim Bar-Lev, Abban Eban and Mordekhay Gur.

MINISTERS CRITICIZE OPPOSITION STAND ON LEBANON

TAL72005 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] During today's Cabinet session, the ministers leveled serious criticism at the opposition stand on the issue of Lebanon. Because of election considerations the opposition's actions are a grave blow to a supreme national interest, was the consensus of what was said in the Cabinet today. Our Political Correspondent Elimelekh Ram brings us further details:

As-Sadat is attacking Syria while Peres is attacking Begin, they said in the Cabinet today. The Israeli press is attacking the Government, while the press in Europe and the United States is praising the Government of Israel for the restraint it is exhibiting. This was said to me today by a senior minister. The Cabinet minister referred to what they called the dangerous phenomenon of the opposition exhibiting an unprecedented lack of national responsibility.

From the flood of criticism that swamped the country at the end of last week, in both the mass media and in opposition party forums, the impression has been created that it is Israel that is to blame for the situation that has been created while the Syrians, in contrast to this, are not at all to blame. All this weakens the government position, the ministers said, and strengthens the hardline position of the greatest of Israel's enemies. This is no less, and perhaps even more, worrisome a phenomenon than the presence of missiles that threaten the country's security.

The Cabinet ministers said every government in the past had been able to rely on the opposition's support in times of crisis. In previous wars too, ministers said, despite differences of opinion, no things were said or done by the opposition that could have harmed the nation's morale. It was reported from the prime minister's office that many phone calls had been received there as well as dozens of messages supporting the government's position and condemning the opposition's statements.

SHAMIR: PERES COMMITTEE PROPOSAL WILL BE EXAMINED

TAL72034 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told our political correspondent a short time ago that Peres' proposal [to set up a consultative committee on the Lebanon issue] would be examined and that it would be discussed. Nevertheless, Mr Shamir pointed out, the framework proposed by Mr Peres has no precedent in any other country and the proposal does not involve a national unity government. Mr Shamir said a reply would be given after the proposal has been examined.

BEGIN 'CONFIDANTS' VIEW PERES' CONSULTATION IDEAS

TAL80715 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 18 May 81

[Report by political correspondent Gad Becker on the station's morning newscast--live]

[Text] The government will be ready to remove the Lebanese crisis from the election campaign, although it was not--say confidants of the prime minister--the government that made this an election issue. The act of removal must be done by the opposition. As for the proposal that permanent consultation be undertaken with the Alignment leaders on the Lebanese situation.

The prime minister's confidants say that this idea will have to be discussed and examined. The suggestion is not being rejected out of hand, and in fact today, too, there are opportunities and possibilities for holding consultations. The prime minister met recently with the Alignment's Mordekhay Gur, with Tehiya's Yuval Ne'eman, and, over a week ago, also with Shim'on Peres for talks on the Lebanese situation. Besides this, there is also the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, on which there are both Alignment and government representatives. It will be recalled that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday evening that the debate in Israel over the crisis in Lebanon is weakening the Israeli stand and is liable to strengthen the Syrian stand.

The prime minister's confidants are saying today that in the wake of the Alignment's proposal, the intensity of the internal debate in Israel may be reduced--a debate which is, as noted, weakening the Israeli stand in handling the crisis. The Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee will today meet with the prime minister in order to discuss again the situation in the north, and yesterday's Alignment proposal will also likely come up at this session.

ARENS VIEWS MISSILE CRISIS, PUBLIC SUPPORT

TA151950 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prof Moshe Arens, believes that the national unanimity, what is called the consensus, is very important in the affair of the missile crisis. Accordingly, Prof Arens is trying to detract from the value of the cables and letters being sent by various elements in the population to those who decide on policy. Our correspondent, Nisim Mish'al, spoke with the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

[Begin videotape] [Question] Professor Arens, according to the results in the Knesset, it emerges that there is no full support for the prime minister's position. Do you think that, with such a balance of forces, the prime minister can decide on a military action which could, perhaps, cause a comprehensive war?

[Answer] Today the State of Israel is in a confrontation with the Syrians and this is a test for all of us. It is also a test for the opposition. Can it be, is it capable of being, and is it prepared to be a responsible opposition which stands at the government's side in this confrontation or is this too difficult for it? I think that the consensus that exists concerning the actions we may have to take is much broader than it appears. I took part in a meeting with opposition leader Mr Shim'on Peres, together with the prime minister, when the issue was discussed in all its aspects, with all the options, all the possibilities, all the evaluations of the situation and there were no differences of opinion at all. Mr Peres, in fact, announced that if it emerges that the diplomatic efforts bear no fruit, he is in favor of using other measures. I regret that there are a few reservations here and there and some anger about matters which, in fact, are marginal; they do not have anything to do with the matter and so the impression may have been given that the consensus is not as firm as it should be and as it really is.

[Question] But....

[Answer] Excuse me, the dangerous thing--there is a certain danger here--is that this will not be understood correctly in Damascus. The dangerous thing is that Al-Asad might think that there is no national consensus here, that there is no willingness to stand up to this confrontation. There is nothing more dangerous than this and it is very important that the opposition members understand it.

[Question] Yes, but the fact is that, beyond the Knesset and the Knesset opposition, this is the first time that there is no national agreement about the possibility of war and this is also expressed by the broad public.

[Answer] I would not say that. At this stage we are not discussing war and I would say that, as far as can be seen, there is no great certainty that there will indeed be war. We are discussing the possibility of a military action similar to the dogfights in Lebanese airspace against the Syrian missiles, the ground-to-air missiles and, on this issue, with my own ears I have heard, and I think that the entire nation of Israel has heard it over the television, that the main opposition, the Alignment, is standing with the government's position.

[Question] Professor Arens, do you estimate that the demonstrations and also the many letters protesting a military action in Lebanon could influence the government's decisionmaking process?

[Answer] First of all, I want to tell you that they must not have an affect. Here a very firm hand is required. This is a confrontation with a dangerous man, a cruel man, Hafiz al-Asad. It is important that he should understand that we are conducting this matter well, firmly and with strength and I think that we are indeed doing this. If it emerges for a moment or even if it seems to Al-Asad that, as a result of this or that letter by several professors in universities, or students in a university, the prime minister of Israel will not be prepared to act, he will hesitate, this will make very bad implications for the State of Israel.

[Question] We have heard a public claim that perhaps it would be worthwhile for the State of Israel to pay a certain political price so that no war should break out.

[Answer] We are not discussing political prices here, but security prices and it may be that many people in the world do not understand the implications of the missile era in which we are living. That means that missiles which, in fact, are not positioned in your own territory, still jeopardize your security. We understand this, because we faced a similar problem with the Egyptian missiles in the war of attrition. Everyone still remembers the problem of the bringing forward of the missiles and everyone remembers the price we paid in the Yom Kippur war as a result of the missiles having been brought forward. The Americans also understand this. They went through a missile crisis when the Russian missiles were in Cuba, not in the United States, but the very fact of them being there jeopardized the security of the United States. That is the problem confronting us. I think that most Israelis understand the problem very well and they will support the government in its treatment of the problem.

[Question] According to the information you have which is correct up to this moment, do you think that the missile crisis could lead to war, to a worsening of the military confrontation between Israel and Syria?

[Answer] I would say, in general terms, that the situation as it exists between Israel and Syria, without any connection with the missile crisis, could lead to war because we are faced with a country, dictator Al-Asad, who declares daily that it is his intention to destroy Israel, who is in warlike relations with Israel and nobody knows what day, what moment he will choose to really carry out such an action. [end videotape]

[Studio commentator] And at noon Professor Arens took part in a confrontation with Reserves Maj Gen Hayim Herzog in the Tel Aviv Engineers' Club. During that confrontation Reserves Major General Herzog said that our civilian rule had lost control over the military element and this, inter alia, was because there is in fact no minister of defense. Herzog added that there was no military solution to the current crisis, while a political solution must come with a compromise between the sides.

HADDAD INVITES AMERICANS TO SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA161918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Exchanges of artillery fire have been going on during the last hour between Major Haddad's militia and terrorists on the An-Nabatiyah ridge.

This is reported by our correspondent Moti 'Eden. The exchanges of fire come in the wake of several days of tense calm in the region. This evening militia commander Sa'd Haddad invited the Americans to set up a representation in independent southern Lebanon, in Marj 'Uyun.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY USES MIG'S AGAINST SANNIN HEIGHTS

TA162213 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2149 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] For the first time today, Syria operated MiG's in the fighting over the Lebanon mountain ridge. This was reported today by the commanders of the Christian forces defending the Sannin Heights. This report has not been confirmed by any other sources. Speaking to foreign correspondents who toured the front, a Christian commander said that, this morning, three MiG's attacked a Phalangist stronghold with missiles. There were no casualties. So far, the Syrians have only used helicopters to transfer supplies and to attack the Christians. As may be recalled, the current crisis began when Israeli Air Force planes shot down two Syrian helicopters on the Lebanon mountain. Syria reiterated today that it would not remove the missiles from Lebanon.

RADIO REPORTS ON UNIFIL MILITARY SPOTTINGS

TA180923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] The UN spokesman in southern Lebanon has reported that at about midnight last night there were exchanges of fire between Israeli vessels and terrorist forces in the Ar-Rashidiyah area. The spokesman also reported that yesterday brisk air traffic was noted in southern Lebanon, especially in the eastern sector. UN personnel spotted planes, helicopters and drones. The UN spokesman also reported that yesterday UN soldiers several times prevented terrorists and Haddad's men from traversing their territory. Among other incidents, the Fiji contingent detained four terrorists of the struggle front at a checkpoint near ('Ayn Ibil). The terrorists resisted the soldiers' demand that a body search be made. Lebanese soldiers who were present fired into the air, and the four terrorists fled to Tyre. Later, the Fiji soldiers fired at a man who was trying to infiltrate from Tyre, wounding him in the leg.

Near the village of Buyut as-Sayyid, Dutch soldiers detained three Christian militiamen who were trying to enter UNIFIL territory. In the wake of this, militiamen in Al-Bayyadah fired at UN soldiers, and they later halted a bus carrying Dutch soldiers and sought to confiscate an 'Uzi submachinegun in the possession of one of the soldiers.

According to the United Nations, UNIFIL personnel also prevented the infiltration of a jeep belonging to the Christian militia in Marj 'Uyun.

JERUSALEM: U.S. DEPENDENTS ORDERED OUT OF LEBANON

TA161414 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] The U.S. State Department today ordered the evacuation of the dependents of the U.S. Embassy staff in Lebanon. The State Department also recommended that the 2,000 U.S. citizens in Lebanon leave the country, unless their presence is essential.

The State Department confirmed that a U.S. task force, led by an aircraft carrier, is now cruising just outside Israeli territorial waters south of Lebanon.

BEGIN'S COMMENTS REGARDING AWACS CLARIFIED

TA180710 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] The prime minister's office said this morning that Secretary of Defense Weinberger received a mistaken and inaccurate quotation from the prime minister's remarks [last week in the Knesset] concerning the AWACS deal.

What the prime minister said was that a U.S. friend in the administration had tried to allay his fears by explaining that Israel would be able to down the AWACS planes if it found fit to do so. To this--the prime minister's office says this morning--the prime minister reacted by asking: How will we be able to do this when it is possible that the planes will be flown by U.S. crews?

10,000 DEMONSTRATE AGAINST POSSIBLE SYRIAN WAR

TA161934 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] There was a mass demonstration this evening in front of the Tel Aviv Museum against a possible war in Lebanon. The demonstration was organized by the Peace Now Movement. The square was jammed and our correspondent reports that about 10,000 persons were present. Speakers at the rally all called on the Syrians to remove the missiles from Lebanon, and on the Israeli Government to exercise wisdom in exhausting all paths in order to prevent war.

Professor Natan Rotenstreich contended that there is no national consensus in Israel. He doubted whether the emergency situation in which Israel finds itself was in fact preceded by careful thought required in such a situation. Professor Rotenstreich sharply attacked the prime minister, saying that given the prime minister's remarks, a national consensus is not possible.

Peace Now spokesman Avshalom Vilan said the prime minister was acting irresponsibly, is playing into Al-Asad's hands, is bringing the Russians into the arena, and is endangering his historic achievement: peace with Egypt.

LIBYARALLY DENOUNCES U.S. CLOSURE OF PEOPLE'S BUREAU

LD161510 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] The Benghazi masses today angrily demonstrated in denunciation of the U.S. Government's decision to close down the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya People's Bureau in Washington and to deport its staff. The demonstrators expressed our people's determination to face up to the imperialist challenges and to achieve Arab unity and liberate the occupied territories.

The brother secretary of the Benghazi Municipal People's Congress addressed the demonstrators. He affirmed our Libyan Arab people's ability to reply to all forms of American imperialist terrorism and to face up to the Zionist aggression, which is supported by the United States and Arab reaction.

The masses of the Benghazi area, who demonstrated today in protest against the U.S. Government's decision to close down the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Washington and deport its officials, have addressed a cable to the brother commander saying:

Brother Commander of the Great 1 September Revolution: The Benghazi masses who have come out in an angry, defiant march wish to declare their support for you along the road of the revolution and Arab unity--the road of the popular revolution which marches to eradicate the symbols of reaction in Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and the Arabian Peninsula. They declare they will remain true loyal soldiers of "Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, the commander and symbol on the road to final emancipation.

At the end of the march, the following statement was read:

Our struggling Arab masses, out of their belief in the aims and objectives of the Great 1 September Revolution and out of their realization of the great responsibilities which lie on the shoulders of the living forces of the Arab nation, in facing all the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary challenges--the masses which gather today in this great popular rally in Benghazi to denounce the U.S. imperialist circles' decision to close down the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Washington and to deport all those working in it--wish to affirm the following:

1. This provocative action on the part of the American administration constitutes an act of aggression against the Libyan Arab people who have chosen to totally control their own freedom, to be their own masters and to build their relations with other peoples of the world on popular bases divorced from all forms of traditional diplomacy. For this reason, the Libyan Arab people have the full right to take all the steps they deem necessary to reply to these acts of aggression.
2. This act of aggression is only a link in the chain of acts of terrorism which successive U.S. administrations have been committing against the Arab nation and other peoples calling for liberation. The production of nuclear weapons, the establishment of military bases, the deployment of naval fleets and interference in the internal affairs of the other peoples are all components of that terrorism.
3. The liberation of Palestine, the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and the providing of support to Arab and world liberation movements constitute established principles for the Libyan Arab people, from which there can be no retreat and in regard to which there can be no slackening, regardless of imperialist pressures and practices.
4. We strongly denounce all the lagging Arab regimes aligned with the United States, the archterrorist, for their stands which are hostile to the masses of the Arab nation. As Arab masses who have seized authority, wealth and arms, we declare our rejection of all the abominable imperialist plots which are being hatched against the Arab nation, foremost of which is the Jamahiriya, the land of all the Arabs.

The forces of American imperialism, Arab reaction and racist Zionism are all trying to besiege the Jamahiriyah.

5. We declare to the parties to the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance that confrontation will not be with the Libyan Arab people alone but with all the progressive forces which are allies of the Libyan people, who declare at this popular rally their unlimited readiness to check the ferocious imperialist offensive.

6. The masses of the Arab nation are today called upon, more than at any time in the past, to comprehend the dimensions of the American imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plan which aims at dividing the Arab nation, sowing the seeds of despair in it and imposing surrender and submission on the Arab people and forcing them to squander their wealth and march in the caravan of imperialism and its agents. For this reason, the Arab masses are called upon to rebel against all the agent reactionary regimes which are in league with imperialism and Zionism. They are also called upon to bolster the heroic steadfastness of Syria, the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement.

7. We affirm that our relations with the American people are marred by no ambiguity. This is because we realize that the American people's will is not their own, due to exploitation, oppression and suppression by the American capitalist administration, which in turn is governed by the Zionist influence.

8. The popular masses in this part of the Arab homeland affirm that no part of their duty to defend the freedom, sovereignty, rights, achievements, gains and wealth can be relinquished. For this reason, they call upon all the honorable men of the nation to participate in the struggle against American imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction.

9. We declare our stand on the side of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples who stand firmly in the face of the Zionist arrogance. We also declare our stand on the side of the heroic Syrian people who reject capitulationist, defeatist solutions.

10. American imperialism and its lackeys want to suppress the peoples, starve them and enslave them. The time has come for these peoples to reply to the American imperialist challenge, to prove that free peoples are stronger than atom bombs, AWACS and naval fleets.

Our struggling Arab masses: We want to tell America through this popular rally that its fleets which roam the seas and watch our territorial waters will not frighten us. Indeed, they will push us yet forward on the road to revolution. We wish to say to America that the bases it is establishing will not divert us from doing what we have determined to do. Indeed, they will increase our resolve.

We wish to say to America that there is no future for treason and that our Arab nation will sooner or later topple the tools of treason in Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and the Arabian Peninsula.

Let America know that we have chosen the road of popular authority. No force can divert us from that road. Let America also know that we have chosen socialism. We will not allow its filthy capitalists to cancel our choice. Let America know that Palestine is Arab and that the foreign body it has planted in the body of the Arab nation will not be able to stand in the way of the growing Arab force. Let America know that we have decided to live as free men and that no force in the world can divert us from this.

Greetings to all the free men in the world. Greetings to the Jamahiriyah's students in the United States, who rushed to the People's Bureau and formed a new people's committee to run it, thereby defying the U.S. administration.

The Great 1 September Revolution will always be there. Go forward. The struggle will continue.

KENYAUNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE IN NAIROBI

LD152012 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] A group of students from the University of Nairobi today demonstrated in the streets of Nairobi, stoning police cars and abusing police officers on duty.

The students, numbering about 100 out of the university's estimated 6,000, blocked the normal flow of traffic on several Nairobi streets. It was said that the students were demonstrating to support some government doctors who have been on strike in the past week.

AFP Report

NC151905 Paris AFP in English 1856 GMT 15 May 81

[Excerpt] Nairobi, 15 May (AFP)--Several hundred Nairobi university students took to the streets of the Kenyan capital today and fought running battles with police for several hours, during which 17 were believed injured and a police car overturned.

The demonstrations began in support of Kenyan medical doctors who have been on strike for the past week for better pay and service allowances. These are to compensate for a government's decision last year to ban doctors in government hospitals from private practice.

The students later returned to the campus where the situation was unclear. A meeting of the university administration had been taking place.

Among grievances raised by the students today were a proposition to send students on a nine-month long vacation and proposed compulsory service in the armed forces. They were also protesting over recent political developments in the country, including a recent ban on former Vice President Jaramogi Oginga Odinga from contesting a by-election in his home constituency, vacated by the holder, Jonah Ogo Ochieng, in his favor.

SOMALIASIAD BARRE WARNS ETHIOPIA ABOUT ATTACKING

NC161730 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Mogadishu, 16 May (AFP)--Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre has warned Ethiopia that it "will meet a crushing and humiliating defeat" if it attempts to invade Somalia. The Somali leader said here last night that the Ethiopian regime was claiming that it now had an opportunity to invade and retaliate for Somalia's past "wrong-doings" but that it would refrain "out of goodwill".

His speech at the National Theatre to a large crowd commemorating Somalia's national youth day was in the context of the long-standing difference between the two Horn of Africa states over the disputed Ogaden region.

Mr Siad Barre was apparently referring to a recent commentary by the Ethiopian News Agency saying that the Ethiopian regime would not exploit what it called Somalia's internal problems and invade "as Somalia did in 1977".

(The Somali leader last month sacked his defence minister and security chief as part of a major government shakeup. War broke out between Somalia and Ethiopia in 1977 over Ethiopian-held Ogaden which Somalia has traditionally claimed.)

The president said that the Ethiopians would be at a loss if they miscalculated Somalia's strength and thought it was in a weaker position than before.

"Somalia has a defence force capable of repelling any enemy that dares to invade her territory, and Mengistu (Ethiopian head of state Haile Mariam Mengistu) knows that he will meet with a humiliation and crushing defeat if he tries to invade us," he said.

He added that Somalia, which supports the Western Somalia Liberation Front fighting for an independent Ogaden regime, would welcome any "genuine and just" initiative aimed at settling the Horn of Africa issue.

PRESSURE TO ABROGATE TREATY WITH U.S. NOTED

LD180657 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16-22 May 81 P 10

[Untitled report from the feature "From Our Correspondents"]

[Text] Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre is coming under great pressure to abrogate the treaty under which he gave the United States the right to use the Berbera base on the Red Sea. The pressure is being brought to bear by Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, which have concluded a treaty to protect the Horn of Africa against foreign intervention. This is in addition to internal pressure resulting from food shortages and the large number of refugees flowing into Somalia from the Ogaden, whose numbers have reached more than 1.5 million.

The Ethiopian Marxist government invited the Somali president to join the tripartite treaty in the Horn of Africa and to solve the problem of the Ogaden Desert through negotiations. Arab quarters are afraid that Siad Barre might be forced to give in to the Ethiopian pressures, which have Moscow behind them, particularly since the Addis Ababa government offered to settle the border problem between the two countries in a manner that would take Somalia's claim into consideration. Somalia considers the Ogaden a Somalia territory.

However, diplomatic quarters in the West are afraid that the region of the Horn of Africa will flare up once again should the present regime in Mogadishu be changed in view of the fact that the United States is anxious to preserve its strategic base in Berbera.

UGANDA

SSEMogerere WARNS GOVERNMENT ON RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

AB151720 Paris AFP in English 1641 GMT 15 May 81

[Excerpt] Nairobi, May 15 (AFP)--In Kampala today, the leader of the opposition Democratic Party (DP), Paul Ssemogerere, said it believed in peaceful solutions to Uganda's political problems, but strongly criticized the government for continuing violations of human rights.

Making his first statement since ousted DP Secretary General Francis Bwengye called for the violent overthrow of President Milton Obote's government a week ago, Mr. Ssemogerere told a news conference that his party is peace-loving and we re-emphasize our dedication to peace in this country.

He said Mr. Bwengye had no authority to issue the statement because it had not been discussed or approved by the party's central executive committee.

Mr. Bwengye's statement came two days after he was replaced as secretary general of the party, the opposition leader said, stressing that the party's constitution empowers him to make temporary appointments to facilitate its functioning.

He said Mr. Bwengye had been removed because he had not been seen at the party's offices in Kampala since the beginning of the year. By the time Mr. Bwengye issued that statement, he had ceased functioning as party secretary general and the statement does not, therefore, commit the party in any way, Mr. Ssemogerere said.

Mr. Ssemogerere also said that the party's members of Parliament had assured him that they would take up their seats when Parliament reconvenes on June 1.

He strongly criticized the government for what he called its continued violation of human rights, the arbitrary arrests everywhere in Uganda and the systematic persecution of DP supporters. He said that over 100 prominent DP members were now in jail, some of them for up to four months, on instructions of local government leaders, without being charged or tried.

Many of those jailed were from Gulu and had been detained two weeks ago, he said. But Prime Minister Otema Alimadi, who is from the region, had denied knowledge of the arrests when he confronted him about it. Mr. Ssemogerere said this denial was despite the fact that the prime minister was touring the area at the time of the arrests, which included that of a Catholic priest, Father Christopher Okoth.

Calling for genuine democracy in Uganda, Mr. Ssemogerere said the precondition for peace and stability was law. Otherwise, it will not be a question of the DP organising war against the government, but one of all Ugandans who feel repelled by the human rights violations obeying their natural instincts, he warned.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLICUNION STRIKE ACTION LEADS TO UGTC DISSOLUTION

AB151250 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Bangui, 15 May (AFP)--Hundreds of private-sector employees went on strike in this capital of the Central African Republic today, ignoring calls by the government for them to remain at work. The strike is in sympathy with workers at a French-owned company who, the national labor federation claims, have been threatened, fired and arbitrarily arrested for union activity in the last nine months. The strikers want a company employee released from jail and the personnel manager dismissed.

Stores, pharmacies, banks and other businesses were shut, and most of their employees assembled at the headquarters of the labor federation, the General Union of Central African Workers.

Last night, the government issued a denunciation of the planned strike that was broadcast on radio and television. It said the economy of the country, ravaged by the imperial dictatorship of Jean Bedel Bokassa that ended 19 months ago, was still too fragile to support such union militancy.

The labor federation disregarded the appeal and, today, called on workers in parastatal enterprises to join the strike tomorrow. There has been no indication how long it will last. The walkout is the first real test for the government of Prime Minister Simon-Narcisse Bozanga, named last month by President David Dacko. The Cabinet was meeting today to consider the strikers demands.

Dacko Decree

AB170900 Paris AFP in French 1906 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Paris, 16 May (AFP)--According to Radio Bangui monitored in Paris on Saturday, the CAR head of state, Mr David Dacko, has dissolved the General Union of Central African Workers [UGTC]. The presidential decree, which was broadcast on Radio Bangui, also points out that each Central African is free to join the central trade union of his or her choice.

Last Thursday the CAR Government had given permission for the creation of a second central trade union, the National Confederation of Central African Workers (CNTC). Its secretary general, Mr Jean Richard Sandos, a teacher with a lot of trade union experience, is generally considered to be close to the government. Mr Sandos was, in particular, UGTC secretary general and member of the political bureau of the Movement for the Social Evolution of Black Africa--the only party in power until the fall of Emperor Bokassa in September 1979.

The dissolution of the UGTC was foreseeable because of the extremely firm tone of the government communique broadcast on Friday evening on Radio Bangui. The UGTC, which was created in 1964, was the strongest central trade union in the CAR, with about 15,000 members.

EQUATORIAL GUINEAALLEGED COUP PLOTTERS TO HAVE PUBLIC TRIALS

AB151744 Paris AFP in French 1445 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Yaounde, 15 May (AFP)--Informed sources in Yaounde announced that about 15 plotters against the regime of Equatorial Guinean President Lt Col Teodoro Obiang Nguema, who were arrested last April in Malabo, will be tried publicly in the presence of international press and jurists.

The decision to hold a public hearing, the date of which has not yet been set, was taken by Equatorial Guinean authorities in the wake of the great rise of international opinion following the recent wave of arrests in the country. From 7 to 15 April, more than 150 people were arrested and detained following the discovery of a plot against President Obiang Nguema. Lieutenant Colonel Obiang Nguema, who was surprised by such world interest and urged by his entourage to improve the image of the country, eventually decided to invite foreign observers to attend the trial of the plotters. A human rights commission might even be invited to visit Malabo soon.

Meanwhile, informed sources--still from Yaounde--report that most people arrested in April have been released. According to Equatorial Guinean authorities, only about 15 political prisoners, who are formally accused of plotting against the regime, along with a few military men arrested for corruption, are still being detained in Malabo's prisons.

ZAIRE

KARL-I-BOND SAYS HE WILL CONTEST PRESIDENCY

AB151240 Paris AFP in French 1010 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Brussels, 15 May (AFP)--Mr Nguza Karl-I-Bond, former Zairian first state commissioner (minister), declared in an interview published on Friday by BELGA in Brussels that he would contest the presidency of Zaire in 1984, or even before that date if circumstances permit. The current presidential term of office ends in 1984.

Explaining his reasons for resigning his post a month ago, Mr Karl-I-Bond said that he did so in order to be at peace with his conscience and to follow his own principles. I did what I could in 1 year, in 1980; I succeeded in reshaping the country's economy according to the directives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and in improving the well-being of the population, the former Zairian first state commissioner added. But because of lack of understanding, intrigues and the reappearance of the same methods of the past, I could not continue to be the scapegoat of a policy that contradicts my principles, he added.

Mr Nguza Karl-I-Bond also said that he did not intend to request political asylum in Belgium and would not want to join any anti-Mobutu opposition movement operating in Belgium or elsewhere.

He stressed that he chose to resign abroad--while he was by the bedside of his sick wife in the Netherlands--because he was convinced that resigning in Kinshasa would amount to asking for the key to his former cell.

Mr Nguza Karl-I-Bond said he hopes to take part in a television debate in Zaire, as was done in France, and which Zairians must have watched, because Kinshasa television relayed the big debate between Giscard and Mitterand. I hope, as president Mobutu himself has even promised, for a democratization of the institutions. I hope Zairians will be in a position to participate directly in matters affecting their destiny. I hope there will be free elections in a peaceful, legal and democratic atmosphere in Zaire.

Under these conditions, the former prime minister added, I will contest and I hope other persons will do so too.

I do not want to force events to happen, I do not want to soil my hands with blood, I want the big debate to come by itself. My target is 1984. However, if circumstances permit, I will be ready before this date, Mr Karl-I-Bond also indicated.

Speaking also about the case of the rebel parliamentarians dismissed for criticizing President Mobutu, Mr Nguza Karl-I-Bond said that they only spoke the truth by exposing the country's difficulties and critical situation. Finally, contrary to what Amnesty International declared after he was freed, he confirmed that he was subject to tortures during his first disgrace.

NIGERIARADIO URGES NLC TO SEEK SOUND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

AB142037 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 14 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] After 2 days of strained [words indistinct] on the nation's labor scene, wise counsel has at last prevailed and the general strike called by the Nigeria Labor Congress [NLC] has been called off. The decision to suspend the strike came after 2 days of partial work stoppage which threatened the relative industrial harmony which had prevailed in this country for quite some time.

After a series of exchanges, the government and the labor congress seem to have come to the conclusion that no good could come out of continued confrontation, and so both parties thought it better to resolve the dispute at the conference table. The composition of the two delegations showed the importance the parties attach not only to the issues at stake, but also to the quality of whatever decision was reached.

On the part of the government, the executive, legislative and administrative arms of the government were represented at the highest level. In the same token, the national president of the NLC and his secretary general handled the negotiations on behalf of the workers. Also by the composition of both sides, the point has been made clear that the piece of legislation is the collective responsibility of the executive and the legislative arms of government. The point is that the legislature enacts the law and the executive implements the legislative decision. This working order should be borne in mind always in order not to bungle issue in future, for it would appear that at the time of the dispute, the NLC seemed to have held out a grudge (?solely) with the executive on the wrong (?assumption) that the problems of the workers were being compounded by that arm of government alone.

Now it is agreed that the issue of a national minimum wage was the responsibility of the National Assembly which has been urged to conclude legislation on it within 30 days. It is also recognized that measures like increases in tax-free allowances would be worked out. This is the form of fringe benefit that is likely to be more meaningful to the workers. Moreover, the minimum pension was raised from 33 to 60 naira per month with the pledge to further examine the minimum for pensioners who are 60 years and above.

The protracted issue of vehicle advance also seemed to be heading toward a solution. Both parties agreed that the issue should be reexamined within a period of 2 weeks. The NLC also accepted the increases in transport allowances already approved for the different categories of workers. The agreement shows magnanimity on the part of the government and the labor leaders.

But now that all demands have been accepted for consideration, the NLC should [words indistinct] to help in creating an atmosphere conducive to legislation. They can do this by ensuring that all workers must not only be asked to return to work, but must be seen to have actually returned. Perhaps, at this stage, labor leaders should know that there is much they can do to press the case of workers under the present dispensation, and this is by resorting to lobbying the National Assembly into passing legislation favorable to workers, instead of dissipating energies and showdown with the government.

While it is true that labor leaders are getting out of patience and are now in a hurry to win concessions for workers whom they have sworn to protect, they must know too that it takes a lot of pains to arrive at sound legislation that can stand the test of time. A free flow of meaningful exchanges both ways, and the ability to [words indistinct] are some of the measures that could prepare the key for lasting industrial peace.

ANGOLACABINET APPROVES SECURITY MINISTRY STATUTES

LD171952 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 17 May 81 EA

[Text] A Council of Ministers decree published in the DIARIO DA REPUBLICA and bearing the signature of the president of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, has approved the statutes of the Ministry of State Security.

The Ministry of State Security, says one of the statutes' articles, is a government organ which will implement the tasks of organizing the defense and protection of the country's security in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the MPLA Labor Party and the president of the republic. It will carry out its activities in close cooperation with other state organs, party and mass organizations.

It is the task of the Ministry of State Security to obtain all information relating to enemy activities, including plans for possible aggression against the People's Republic of Angola. The Ministry of State Security will fight activities directed against the internal and external security of the fatherland.

It is also within the competence of this ministry to guarantee the physical protection of our leaders, defend the national frontiers in close collaboration with the Ministry of Defense, check arrivals and departures of Angolans and foreigners as well as their stay in the national territory or outside it and organize and control the use of the labor force of the cadres.

In the provinces, the decree continues, the Ministry of State Security will be represented by provincial delegates to be appointed in accordance with powers, regulations and provisions laid down by the law.

AFP: ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH FRANCE PROGRESSING

AB171027 Paris AFP in French 0813 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Luanda, 17 May (AFP)--Economic relations between France and Angola have truly progressed, as many operations recorded in Luanda recently show. This week the Titan Company inaugurated a truck assembly plant, the first phase of an investment program of more than 50 million francs.

On its part, the ELF-Aquitaine Oil Company will this weekend begin its first exploratory well in the seas at the northern part of the country. The total group will begin in September a search for oil in an offshore sector which has been allocated to it in the south.

Finally, a consortium led by Creusot Loire will soon sign a contract of more than fr 150 million for the construction of a textile factory in Luanda. It is learned from a good source.

Commercial exchange between France and Angola have progressed these past few years to reach about fr 400 million in 1980, or three times more than in 1978. It essentially concerns French exportation of food products and equipment to Angola. This progress should continue in 1981 because contracts totaling about fr 1 billion were signed last year between Angola and French companies, it is learned from a good source in Luanda.

Among the other active firms in the country are Renault and Renault Industrial Vehicles, (RVI) (sale and assembling of vehicles), [word indistinct] the Vie group, (construction of an oil pipeline terminal in the north), the Snias (helicopters), Alsthom and Bouygues (offshore).

Technical cooperation between the two countries is also in full development with the implementation of a certain number of projects in the field of petroleum, the mechanization of coffee and fishing. On its part, the Electricity of France (EDF) would participate in the setting up of an electricity institute near Luanda.

NAMIBIASWAPO STATEMENT CONDEMNS PIK BOTHA'S U.S. VISIT

LD161658 Dar es Salam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] The Namibian liberation movement, SWAPO, has condemned the Boer foreign minister's visit to the United States.

In a statement issued in Dar es Salaam today, SWAPO said that the Namibian people are exerting all efforts to liberate their country from the Boer colonialism. The statement said that the Namibian people are aware that as a result of the Boers' intransigence, the independence of their country can only be achieved through struggle. SWAPO said that the freedom of Namibia is still in the hands of the United Nations and that any settlement in that colony must involve the United Nations.

MUDGE URGES TERRITORY'S INDEPENDENCE, DTA ROLE

LD162135 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] The chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance and the ministers' council of South-West Africa, Mr Dirk Mudge, says the territory must become independent as soon as possible with guarantees for the rights of all population groups, and not only the whites. He said, at a meeting in Windhoek, that if the fundamental rights of all inhabitants were guaranteed as individuals, then it automatically followed that group rights would be assured. Mr Mudge said South-West Africa should become independent through a democratic process if possible, without meaningless guarantees such as those of Lancaster House, and with full internal participation. With the Lancaster House agreement, Zimbabwe became independent. The ruling Democratic Turnhalle Alliance would insist on playing a role and would not be misled by an adapted Resolution 435, which has been altered to suit SWAPO.

DIRK MUDGE COMMENTS ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MAKEUP

LD171946 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] The South-West Africa--Namibia--national assembly will in future be composed less on ethnic lines. This has been announced in Windhoek by the chairman of the ruling Democratic Turnhalle Alliance [DTA], Mr Dirk Mudge. He said the DTA executive had decided that the interim government, as well as the future government of independent South-West Africa, would have a 50-member elected national assembly, while each of the 11 population groups would be entitled to nominate 2 members, making an additional 22 members. The council of ministers, however, would still be selected from among members of the national assembly. Mr Mudge said there were guarantees for everyone in the fact that they had a national assembly and that fundamental rights would be guaranteed. Consensus was not a workable method of decision making, and only the 22 ethnic members appointed by each population group would be needed.

SOUTH AFRICABOTHA VIEWS U.S. STAND ON REGIONAL ISSUES

LD180718 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, said that the Reagan Administration does not expect the South African Government to relinquish power but wishes to see revolutionary change taking place in South Africa. Speaking at Jan Smuts Airport after his arrival from Washington, where he held talks with American officials and President Reagan, Mr Botha said he had not been told by the Americans that they wanted to see one man, one vote in South Africa. However, they indicated that they would like to see steady movement in the direction announced by the prime minister, P.W. Botha, and the South African Government.

His discussions had also convinced him that American suggestions on how to settle the South-West African problem provided a satisfactory basis to resume talks. There talks had been in danger of reaching a deadlock, particularly after the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance had been refused permission to address the U.N. Security Council. Mr Botha said settlement Resolution 435 of the Security Council would have to be amended and supplemented, but he declined to comment on the nature of the changes contemplated. The American administration was now awaiting the reply of the South African Government to the framework for a settlement suggested by the Reagan administration. Should South Africa approve the framework, the United States would then attempt to get it accepted by the other interested parties.

PRIME MINISTER PROPOSES NONAGGRESSION PACTS

LD162138 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] The South African prime minister Mr P.W. Botha says South Africa is prepared to conclude nonaggression pacts with all its neighbors as well as agreements that there will be no interference in each other's domestic affairs. Addressing a republic festival celebration in Cape Town, Mr Botha said at the same time South Africa would resist and beat off every effort aimed at disrupting the orderly development and autonomy of South Africa.

Emphasizing the strategic importance of South Africa, he said foreign trade amounted to more than 34,000 million rands during 1980. South Africa's exports to African countries increased from 263 million rand in 1970 to 1,098 million rand in 1980. Mr Botha said that between 300,000 and 400,000 foreign workers from African countries worked in South Africa.

ZAMBIA

VISITING SAUDI PRINCE CRITICIZES U.S. ATTITUDE

LD151548 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 May 81 CA

[Text] Saudi Arabia says it is ready to invest in Zambia as long as it is assured that its capital will be secure. Visiting Saudi Arabian Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was replying to President Kaunda's request for Saudi Arabia to invest in the country. He said the Arab world will come to invest in Zambia if they can be convinced that security will be provided and as long as there is an opportunity to work for the benefit of the two countries. He indicated that the Arab world (?and) this part of Africa should cooperate economically as well as in other fields.

And the visiting Saudi Arabian prince, Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, warned that the United States is heading for self-destruction by its (?unjust efforts towards) the situation in the Middle East and Southern Africa. He warned the Arab world, southern Africa and the rest of the continent against sitting idle and watching the situation deteriorate. Prince 'Aziz warned at State House [as heard] when he had official talks with President Kaunda. He said it is evident that the same attitude being taken by the United States towards apartheid in South Africa is also being taken towards Zionism in the Middle East.